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32
THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION

LIMITED.



THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL

Co-operative Congress

1918

*Held at the Central Hall, Liverpool,
20th, 21st, and 22nd May, 1918.*



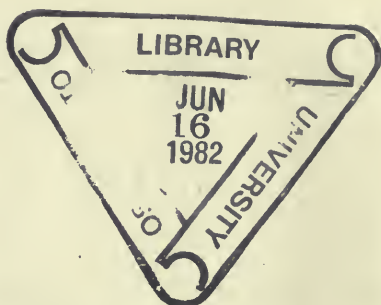
Edited by A. Whitehead, General Secretary.



MANCHESTER:

Published by the Co-operative Union Limited, Holyoake House,
Hanover Street,

HD
3485
C54
1912





MR. T. KILLON,
PRESIDENT, LIVERPOOL CO-OPERATIVE
CONGRESS, 1918.

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8. Joint Propaganda Committee, p. 575—Miss E. E. M. Allen, J. Blackwell, H. Brindley, T. Madeley, T. E. Shotton, A. E. Stubbs.
9. Joint Parliamentary Committee and Parliamentary Representation Committee, p. 576.—Miss E. E. M. Allen, T. W. Allen, T. Anderson, Miss Beckett, F. J. Bengough, W. Bentley, A. C. Burn, J. J. Carding, W. T. Charter, Mrs. A. E. Corrie, W. J. Douse, W. E. Dudley, Miss C. Egerton, Mrs. G. Ferguson, W. Gallacher, Mrs. M. A. Gasson, F. Jennings, T. Killon, W. Lander, H. J. May, J. Penny, J. Sharples, R. Stewart, U. Swift, F. H. West, E. Whiteley, R. Whitfield.
10. Scottish Section Election, p. 587—T. Killon, A. Whitehead.
11. Reorganisation of the Parliamentary Representation Committee, p. 600—T. Bird, J. Blackwell, W. R. Blair, F. H. Bruff, W. T. Charter, Mrs. A. E. Corrie, W. E. Dudley, T. F. Fathers, W. Gallacher, R. Halstead, F. Hayward, Mrs. E. D. Hood, C. Hunter, W. Kerr, T. Killon, N. McLean, J. Millington, E. R. S. Mundy, J. Penny, W. R. Rae, W. Ross, C. Walkden, A. Whitehead, E. Whiteley, S. F. Whitlock, J. Wilkinson.
12. Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators, p. 611—W. Bentley, R. Rowsell, A. Whitehead.
13. United Advisory Council of Trade-unionists and Co-operators, p. 612—W. Bentley, S. Blakeborough, T. Killon, J. H. Pendlebury, A. E. Stubbs, W. H. Watkins.
14. Honorary Members of the Board, p. 613—T. Killon.
15. Deceased Members, p. 613—T. Killon.
16. Transfer of Society, p. 614—T. Killon.
17. Co-operative Union Finances, p. 614—S. F. Perry, W. H. Savage.
18. Survey Committee's Report, p. 614—Miss E. E. M. Allen, T. Anderson, W. Bentley, J. Blackwell, S. Blakeborough, F. W. Booth, H. Brindley, F. H. Bruff, J. W. Burnley, W. T. Charter, Mrs. A. E. Corrie, G. A. Curtis, W. T. Davis, J. E. Elston, T. F. Fathers, W. Gregory, A. Hainsworth, F. Hall, R. Hall, Mrs. E. D. Hood, T. Horrocks, F. Jennings, J. Johnston, T. Killon, W. Lander, A. Mann, J. H. Mihell, W. Millerchip, E. R. S. Mundy, S. F. Perry, W. R. Rae, A. Whitehead.

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20. Conciliation Boards, p. 633—W. Brown, J. E. Kilburn, T. Killon, A. Whitehead.
21. Hours and Wages Boards, p. 634—J. S. Armitage, F. J. Norris, A. Whitehead.
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List of Delegates and Representatives Present at the Congress.

(1) Representatives from other Bodies, &c.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.—Mr. W. Maxwell and Mr. H. J. May.
TRADES UNION CONGRESS.—Mr. E. Bevin.
NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.—Miss E. R. Conway and Mr. H. Pearson.
LABOUR DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.—Mr. J. J. Dent.
REGISTRY OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—Mr. Digby F. L. Koe.

(2) Representatives from other Countries.

FRANCE.—Messrs. Daudé Bancel and P. Waseige.

(3) Members of the Central Board, other than those delegated by Societies and District Associations.

IRISH EXECUTIVE.—Messrs. G. McGuffin (Belfast), J. Palmer, and R. Fleming (Secretary),

MIDLAND SECTION.—Messrs. G. Bastard (Leicester), J. Butcher (Rugby), G. Harris (Lincoln), J. Langley (Kettering), W. Millerchip (Walsall), J. Millington (Birmingham), C. A. W. Saxton (Worcester), J. G. Shacklock, and E. L. Griffiths (Hon. Member).

NORTHERN SECTION.—Messrs. J. C. Aiston (Newcastle-on-Tyne), G. Bedford (Middlesbrough), J. Davison (Bedlington), S. Galbraith, M.P. (Durham), W. R. Rae (Sunderland), and A. Stoddart (Secretary).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. W. R. Blair (Liverpool), E. Booth (Wooldale), J. R. Cunliffe (Ramsbottom), W. Dewhurst (Colne), S. Fairbrother (Bolton), S. R. Foster (Bingley), G. Goodenough (Castleford), J. Greenwood (Hebden Bridge), W. Gregory (Preston), F. Hayward (Burslem), A. Horricks (Pendleton), J. Johnston (Manchester), G. Major (Rotherham), T. Redfearn (Heckmondwike), W. Swindlehurst (Barrow-in-Furness), J. Thompson (Ashton-under-Lyne), T. Way (Wakefield), B. Woolfenden (Rochdale), and J. Bradshaw (Secretary).

SCOTTISH SECTION.—Messrs. J. Allan (Glasgow), J. Deans (Kilmarnock), P. Loney (Stirling), J. Lucas (Shettleston), N. McLean (Glasgow), J. Patterson (Burntisland), A. Purdie (Edinburgh), and G. Wilson (Bannockburn).

SOUTHERN SECTION.—Mrs. M. A. Gasson (London), Messrs. J. H. Bate (Leyton), W. T. Charter (Cambridge), M. H. Clear (Sheerness), S. Foulger (Ipswich), A. Hainsworth (Woolwich), E. King (Oxford), R. Rowsell (Reading), W. J. Salmon (Colchester), and B. Williams (Secretary).

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. W. Brown (Weston-super-Mare), J. T. Davis (Plymouth), Mrs. Found (Bristol), Messrs. R. Pearce (Delabole), Rev. G. A. Ramsay (Radstock), and W. H. Watkins (Plymouth).

WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. W. H. Bryant (Blaenavon), R. R. Chappell (Gloucester), J. P. Davies (Nantyglo), D. Evans (Blackwood), D. Williams (Swansea), and E. R. Wood (Ton Pentre).

GENERAL SECRETARY.—Mr. A. Whitehead.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Mr. T. Horrocks.

CASHIER.—Mr. N. H. Cooper.

EDUCATION SECRETARY.—Mr. C. E. Wood.

ADVISER OF STUDIES.—Mr. F. Hall, M.A., and also Miss E. M. Bradley.

(4) Delegates from Societies and Conference Associations.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
1 Aberdare	Davies, J.
"	Rogers, W.
"	Evans, E. R.
2 Aberdeen Northern	Ambler, F.
"	Bisset, G.
3 Abersychan and Talywain	Coles, W. J.
"	Draisey, D. T.
"	Martin, J.
4 Adlington	Gore, W.
5 Airedale Worsted	Lambert, J.
6 Alcester	Cund, E.
"	Jones, G.
"	Perkins, J. A.
7 Aldershot	Waterford, J.
8 Alltwn and Pontardawe	Price, D.
"	Williams, T. R.
9 Amble	Foreman, E.
10 Annesley Woodhouse	Davison, C. W.
11 Annfield Plain	Birtley, J.
"	Richards, V.
12 Ashford	Finn, J.
"	Noble, B.
13 Ashington Industrial	Besford, J. W.
"	Grasham, W.
"	Maslin, J.
"	Smith, J. W.
14 Aspatria Industrial	Cowley, J. T.
"	Elliot, R.
"	Lazonby, J.
15 Ashton-under Lyne	Vernon, S.
16 Avonbank	Clark, J.
17 Bacup	Collinge, A. G.
"	Hartley, W. J.
"	Lord, E. J.
18 Bamber Bridge	Brown, W. H.
19 Banbury	Haskins, H.
"	Lickorish, W. H.
"	Walker, H. C.
20 Bannockburn	Mullen, M.
21 Barnsley	Cauldwell, J.
"	Elliott, J.
"	Hunt, W.
"	Lightowler, A.
"	Machen, W.
"	Wroe, A. J.
22 Barrhead	Reid, W.
23 Barrow-in-Furness	Averay, E.
"	Clark, Mrs. M.
"	Duerden, P.
"	Lamb, G.
"	McNicol, Mrs. L.
"	Yeomans, J. F.
24 Barry and District	Bembridge, B. B.
"	Thomas, J.
25 Barwell	Cuffin, G.
"	Geary, G.
26 Batley	Almond, Mrs. L.
"	Childe, W. H.
"	Heald, C.
"	Parr, J. E.
"	Walworth, E.
27 Bedford Progressive	Day, A. W.
"	Day, Mrs. A. W.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
27 Bedford Progressive	Jones, D. A.
28 Belfast	Davidson, J.
"	Girvin, Mrs. M. J.
"	Hayes, W.
"	Husband, T. S.
"	Jones, D. W.
"	Richardson, H.
29 Bentham	Carr Mrs. E.
30 Bingley	Stead, J.
"	Whatmuff, A.
31 Birkenhead	Beattie, W.
"	Daniels, A.
"	Perry S. F.
"	McNaught, A. J.
"	Stone, B.
"	Russell, C.
32 Birkenshaw	Baxter, J.
"	Clough, E.
"	Lambert, Mrs H.
33 Birmingham	Fathers, T. F.
"	Hook, F. L.
"	Roberts, W.
"	Savage, W. H.
"	Sherry, W. E.
"	Thomas, D. H.
34 " Printers	Bruff, F. H.
35 Birstall	Goodall, J.
"	Ke'sall, T.
"	Rothery, Mrs A.
36 Birtley and District	Birt, T.
"	Dennison, W.
"	Johnson, W.
"	Makeplace, L. G.
"	Olds, G.
37 Bishop Auckland	Blenkin, T.
"	Davies, J. P. T.
"	Snaith G.
38 Blackburn—Daisyfield	North, J. W.
39 " Grimshaw Park	Gastall, T.
"	Smalley, J. R.
40 Blackley	Bangh, W. H.
"	Chew, T.
"	Holden, W.
"	Smith, A. J.
"	Taylor, W. E.
41 Blackpool	Bygate H.
"	Stopford, J. P.
"	Tomlinson, Mrs.A.B.
"	Williams, F. A.
42 Blaenavon	Court, C.
"	Daniel, H.
"	Williams, E.
43 Blaendulais	Davies, J. W.
44 Blaina	Morgan, G.
"	Rosser, D.
45 Blantyre	Frew, A.
"	McArthur, M.
46 Blaydon-on-Tyne	Crisp, M.
"	Moore J. H.
"	Robson C.
47 Boldon Industrial	Clark, R. A.
"	Sutherland, J.
"	Wilkinson, R.
48 Bolton	Bentley, W.
"	Benson, T.
"	Heath, J.
"	Lewes, T.
"	McNair, T.
"	Shepperd, T.
49 " Cabinetmakers	Kirkman, J.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
50 Boston	Brown, J.
"	Christmas, H.
51 Bradford (City of)	Denman, F.
"	Hudson, W. H.
"	Jagger, A.
"	Pickard, J.
"	Tolson, E.
"	Wood, J. T.
52 Brechin United	Dundas, D.
53 Brierfield	Preston, T. C.
54 Brighouse	Eastwood, H.
"	Eastwood, Mrs. H.
"	Ibbetson, C. H.
"	Rukin, E. E.
"	Rukin, Mrs. A.
"	Woodcock, S.
55 Brighton	Batts, J.
"	Dallaway, W.
"	Gibbins, F. A.
"	Jones, Mrs. E.
"	Wilkinson, W. A.
56 Brightside and Carbrook	Burgess, Mrs.
"	Dimberline, J.
"	Foster, J. E.
"	Hawkins, J.
"	Simmons, H. T.
"	Watkins, T. H.
57 Bristol	Blakeborough, J. W.
"	Ewing, J.
"	Griffin, W. B.
"	Hampton, Mrs. A.
"	Marks, J.
"	Petherick, W. J.
58 " Printers	Mundy, E. W.
59 Bryn Gates	Bithill, D.
60 Burnbank	Ballantyne, J.
"	Sempie, M.
61 Burnley	Farley, D.
"	Isherwood, W.
"	Marsden, W.
"	Nowell, J. T.
62 " Self-Help	Wood, T.
63 Burntisland	Masterton, J.
64 Burry Port	Eager, J.
65 Burslem	Brindley, Mrs. H.
"	Brooks, G. W.
"	Chorlton, Miss F. A.
"	Harding, Miss E.
"	Lawton, W. H.
"	Radeliffe, Mrs. E.
66 Burton-on-Trent	Fiddkin, A.
"	Merrey, C. H.
"	Smith, J. A.
67 Bury	Fielding, A.
"	Hazlett, A. E.
"	Lord, T. E.
"	Rigby, T.
"	Taylor, R.
68 Buttershaw	Lightowler, S.
69 Butt Lane	Yates, S.
70 Caerau and Maesteg	Evans, D.
71 Cainscross and Ebley	Bennett, H. J.
"	Hill, B. S.
72 Cambridge	Mills, B.
"	Stubbs, A. G.
73 Cannock	Altree, F. J.
"	Bird, A. L.
"	Boden, W.
"	Murtagh, P.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
74 Cardiff	Stedman, W. L.
75 Carleton	Jones, D.
76 Carlisle	Barnes, J.
"	Bell, W.
"	Riddle, G.
"	Robinson, Wm.
"	Watson, J.
77 Carmarthen Industrial	Morgan, T. H.
78 Castleford Industrial	Jackson, J. P.
79 Cefn	Fawcett, C. W.
"	Jones, S. T.
80 Chepstow	Cole, C.
"	Kerton, G.
81 Chesham Boot and Shoe	Wills, E.
82 Chester-le-Street	Garland, G.
"	Long, A.
83 Cinderford	Pace, W.
"	Perkins, M. H.
84 Cinderhill	Askew, W.
"	Buxton, G.
85 Cleator Moor	Adams, J. J.
"	Bethwaite, W.
"	Branthwaite, W.
"	Storey, J.
86 Cleckheaton	Vodden, W.
"	Booth, J. R.
87 Close Hill	Parkin, F.
88 Clown	Broadbent, J.
89 Clydebank	Hill, J. T.
"	Campbell, A.
"	Carnochan, W. J.
90 Coalisland	Thorpe, Mrs. J.
91 Coalville	Fleming, R.
"	Bradshaw, C.
"	Bradshaw, Mrs. C.
"	Gowtage, E. A.
"	Swain, G.
92 Coatbridge	Collins, T.
"	Donald, A.
"	Morrison, Mrs. G.
"	Thomson, W.
93 Codnor Park and Ironville	Barker, F.
94 Colchester	Ayling, A. E.
"	Ayling, Mrs. A. E.
"	Hamm, G. F.
"	McKenna, T. J.
"	Salmon, Mrs. A.
"	Strutt, F.
95 Colne	Bank, W. H.
"	Barritt, J. W.
"	Foulds, W.
"	Senior, J.
96 Compstall	Dawson, J.
"	Hambleton, S.
"	Watkis, B.
"	Wilkinson, G. J.
97 Congleton	Choppinger, C.
"	Elkin, J. W.
"	Holden, H.
"	Hadley, T.
"	Lemas, F.
98 Consett	Downie, P.
"	Saunders, E.
99 Co-operative Bakeries (West Stanley)	Harrison, W.
100 Co-operative Insurance	Adams, T.
"	Allen, T. W.
"	Golightly, A. W.
"	Hemingway, W.
"	Shotton, T. E.
"	Thomson, G.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
101 Co-operative Newspaper	Blakeborough, S.
" "	Brownbill, G.
" "	Smith, J.
102 Co-operative Printing	Hyde, R.
" "	McShane, P.
" "	Mitchell, I. H.
103 Co-operative Productive Federation	Halstead, R.
104 Co-operative Secretaries' Association	Jarman, J.
105 Co-operative Sundries Manufacturing	Haworth, W. T.
106 Co-operative Wholesale	Brodrick, T.
" "	Clayton, W.
" "	Dudley, W. E.
" "	English, J.
" "	Hoit, R.
" "	Johns, J. E.
" "	Killon, T.
" "	King, J. W.
" "	Lander, W.
" "	Marshall, C.
" "	Oliver, J.
" "	Pingstone, H. C.
" "	Thorpe, G.
" "	Threadgill, A. E.
" "	Varley, A.
107 Coventry	Biggs, Mrs. M.
" "	Corrie, Mrs. A. E.
" "	Jacquist, L. G.
" "	Newlove, Mrs.
" "	Pendlebury, J. H.
108 Cowdenbeath	Whitmore, F.
" "	Russell, J.
109 Cowlairs	Simpson, J.
" "	Hunter, C.
" "	Ross, W.
110 Cowling	Russell, D.
111 Cramlington	Snowden, W.
" "	Gray, W.
112 Crewe	Leslie, R.
" "	Beard, E.
" "	Bourne, J.
" "	Derbyshire, E.
" "	Moore, H.
" "	Saunders, A.
113 Criggleston	Smith, J.
114 Crompton Root Manufacturing	Whittle, F.
115 Crosland Moor	Cox, W. A.
116 Crosshills	Pogson, T. E.
117 Croydon	Greenwood, R.
" "	Allen, Miss E. E. M.
" "	Bethel, F.
118 Cwmbach	Cooper, D. W.
" "	Jones, E.
" "	Jones, L.
" "	Jones, I. R.
" "	Phillips, D. J.
" "	Rees, M.
119 Cwmgorse	Thomas, E.
120 Cymmer	Howells, G. J.
" "	Jones, D. J.
121 Dalton-in-Furness	Lewney, W.
" "	Thompson, E.
122 Dalziel	Anderson, J.
" "	Miller, G.
" "	Sinclair, J.
123 Darlington Industrial	Allan, R.
" "	Broadley, W.
" "	Ferguson, G.
" "	Ferguson, Mrs. G.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
123 Darlington Industrial	Hunter, Miss L.
124 Delph. "	Stevenson, D.
125 Denholme	Moorhouse, T. E.
126 Derby	Parker, W.
"	Barlow, T.
"	Booth, Mrs. J. E.
"	Bullivant, R.
"	Poynton, T.
"	Smith, Mrs. M.
"	Unsworth, Mrs. J. W.
127 Derwent Flour Mill	Bowman, J.
128 Desboro'	Marlow, J.
"	Plowright G.
129 Dewsbury Co-operative Laundries	Ratherley, F.
130 Dewsbury Pioneers	Kilburn, J. E.
"	Kilburn, Mrs. J. E.
"	Nettleship, T.
"	Senior, Mrs. A. F.
"	Sowerby, J.
"	Sowerby, Mrs. J.
131 Doncaster Mutual	Colpus, F. C.
"	Curtis, G. A.
"	Shaw, W. H.
"	Wood, W.
132 Doves Holes	Barker, J.
133 Dowlais	Jones, W.
134 Drighlington	Shaw, A.
135 Droylsden	Barlow, R.
"	Boothroyd, W. J.
"	Clarke, Mrs. E.
"	Pogson, D.
"	Stopford, J.
136 Dublin Industrial	Byrne, L. P.
137 Dudley	Grubham, E.
"	Thompson, R.
138 Dumbarton Equitable	Mitchell, G. E.
"	Murray, D.
139 Dumfries and Maxwelltown	Cook, D.
140 Dunfermline	Bowie, D.
"	Dow, W.
"	M. Idrum, W.
141 Dysart	Terris, A.
142 Eagley	Lyon, C. E.
143 Earlestown	Judson, J.
144 East Cleveland	Hodgson, M.
"	James, W.
145 Ebbw Vale	Evans, D.
"	Evans, J. M.
"	Payne, W.
"	Plummer, D.
146 Eccles Provident	Hopkins, M.
"	Robinson, Mrs. F. J.
"	Tyldesley, J.
"	Walsh, H. N.
"	Yates, S.
"	Young, T. M.
147 Eccleshill	Hartley, B.
148 Edinburgh—St. Cuthbert's	Buchanan, J. B.
"	Cairns, J.
"	Hume, Mrs. E.
"	Jobstone, J. W.
"	Miller, A.
"	Neilson, J.
149 Egerton	Kershaw, G.
150 Egremont Industrial	Marshall, W.
"	Thomas, J. A.
151 Ellesmere Port	Brewer, R.
"	Nicholas, J. W.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
152 Ely	Knights, J.
153 "	Touch, B.
154 Emley	Kidd, J.
155 Employes' Provident	Jones, A.
156 Enfield Highway	Hood, Mrs. E. D.
157 Excelior Boot and Shoe (Sibley)	Mercy, J. A.
158 Exeter	Pryce, E.
159 Failsworth	Egerton, Miss O.
160 Farnworth and Kearsley	Holliday, R.
" "	Entwistle, J.
" "	Isherwood, S. B.
" "	Paynter, J. O.
" "	Rigg, A.
161 Felling Industrial	Robey, J. E.
162 Fleetwood "	Goodfellow, M.
"	Major, T. C.
"	Atherton, W.
"	Jackson, A. E.
"	Rimmer, G.
163 Galashiels	Miller, H.
164 Garden City Press	Williams, M.P., A.
165 Garndiffaith and Varteg	Morris, T.
166 Garston	Barlow, J.
"	Rowbury, G.
167 Gateshead	Baldock, H. G.
"	Thornton, W.
168 Gillingham	Gill, J.
"	Hobbs, W. F.
169 Gilsland Convalescent Homes	Pannell, Mrs.
170 Glasgow—Drapery and Furnish	Dickie, J.
" " " "	Galloway, J.
" " " "	Love, W.
171 " Eastern	Simpson, W.
" "	Hardie, R.
172 " Kinning Park	Shanks, W.
" "	Boyle, G. M.
" "	Buchanan, Mrs.
" "	Fountain, J. M.
" "	Gallacher, Mrs.
" "	Lonsdale F.
173 " London Road	Macrae, D.
" "	Graham, Mrs.
174 " Progress	Gray, R.
" "	McGhie, A.
175 " St. George	Nivin, J.
" "	Boyd H.
" "	Kerr, W.
176 " St. Rollox	Tulloch, Mrs. R A.M.
" "	Greig, J.
177 " United Baking	King, J.
" "	Hamilton, J.
" "	Handyside, R.
" "	Irvine, G.
" "	McLay, R.
" "	Moodie, Mrs.
" "	Rough, Mrs.
178 Glenfield Boot and Shoe	Brewin, J. H.
179 Glossop Dale	Chadwick, J.
180 Gloucester	Blackwell, J.
"	Peters, R.
181 Godalming	Hirst, S.
182 Goole	Holmes, L.
"	Holmes, Mrs. L.
183 Grahamston and Bainsford	Rule, Mrs. J.
184 Grantham	Bradshaw, W.
"	Woodruff, C.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
185 Grays	Hanham, F. G.
"	Jones, J.
"	Lanaway, Mrs. M.
"	Ramsey, E. C.
"	Vousden, J. T.
186 Great Grimsby	Grubb, T. G.
"	Gunton, J. W.
"	Herbert, W. H.
"	Holmes, J. W.
"	Pinckbeck, W. C.
"	Veri y. S. E.
187 Great Harwood	Pickup, J. T.
"	Tunstall, T.
"	Whalley, J.
188 Great Horton	Garthwaite, W. F.
"	Shepherd, J.
"	Sead, R.
189 Great Wigston	Herbert, A.
"	Kirby, A.
"	Stanton, J. G.
190 Greenfield	Isherwood, F.
191 Greenock Central	Horne, D.
"	Macdonald, A.
192 Greenstreet	Wildash, P. E.
193 Guildford	Combes, F. L.
"	Gibbons, Mrs. W. L.
194 Guisborough	Readman, W. H.
195 Guiseley	Crowther, A.
"	Wilson, J. R.
196 Halifax Industrial	Barracrough, H.
"	Garside, F.
"	Garside, S.
"	Lumb, J. W.
"	Lumb, Mrs. J. W.
"	Redman, A.
197 Haltwhistle	Dryden, .
"	Taylor, R.
198 Hamilton Baking	Gallocher, J.
199 " Central	Cutler, T.
"	Hendry, D. C.
200 Harrogate	Broadbank, E.
"	Whiteley, J. R.
201 Hartlepool	Beckett, T.
"	Beckett, Mrs. T.
"	Burgess, M. G.
"	Johnston, C.
"	Wilkin, Mrs. E. A.
202 Hasland	Holmes, A.
203 Haslingden Industrial	Hindle, R.
"	Riley, H.
"	Wallwork, Mrs. W.
204 Hawick	Laidlaw, R.
205 Haworth	Hey, A. E.
"	Shackleton, P.
206 Hebden Bridge Fustian	Ainley, A.
"	Dawson, J.
"	Ingham, W.
207 " Industrial	Crowther, J. W.
"	Latham, A. W.
"	Sutcliffe, A.
208 Heckmondwike	Hall, R.
"	Wilson, W. S.
209 Hemel Hempstead	Herbert, Miss E. M.
210 Hereford	Hyett, F. J.
211 Heywood Industrial	Ascroft, W. H.
"	Bridge, J.
"	Colin, E.
"	Dutson, F.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
211 Heywood Industrial.....	Greenwood, J. T
212 Higham Ferrers.....	Hunt, G. A.
213 Hillhouse Perseverance.....	Marsden, W.
214 Hinckley.....	Baker, J.
".....	Iliffe, W.
215 Hindley.....	Eccleston, J.
".....	Green, R.
".....	Hurst, J.
216 Horbury.....	Bowers, T.
".....	Fallas, A.
217 Horwich.....	Gore, W.
".....	Platt, J.
".....	Smith, T.
".....	Stell, R.
218 Hucknall Torkard.....	Mottram, J.
".....	Smith, W.
".....	Wilford J. H.
219 Huddersfield Industrial.....	Armitage, J. S.
".....	Bland, J.
".....	Elstone, J. E.
".....	Fleetwood, H.
".....	Hellawell, H. J. S.
".....	Kinder, B.
220 Hull.....	Booth, F. W.
".....	Clarke, J.
".....	Edmond, Mrs. E.
".....	Horton, W.
".....	Lickes, J.
".....	Slater, Mrs. A.
221 Hyde.....	Ardern, W.
".....	Mottram, J.
".....	Oakes, J.
".....	Shaw, A.
222 Ilkeston.....	Blount, J. H.
".....	Page, Mrs. E.
".....	Pearson, E.
223 Ipswich.....	Baskett, C.
".....	Bird, T.
".....	Hall, W.
".....	Osborne, W.
224 Irish Agency.....	Stevenson, E.
225 " Agricultural Organisation.....	Smith-Gordon, L.
226 " Agricultural Wholesale.....	Byrne, L. P.
227 Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale.....	Roberts, W.
228 Jarrow and Hebburn.....	Lamb, W.
".....	O'Neill, F. P.
229 Keighley.....	Bancroft, J. O.
".....	Butterfield, F. W.
".....	Gill, T.
".....	Midgley, F.
".....	Pickover, F.
".....	Wilcock, S.
230 " Laundries.....	Whalley H.
231 Kendal.....	Atkinson, W.
232 Kettering Boot and Shoe.....	Panter, F.
".....	Shrive, G.
233 " Clothing.....	Daniels, H.
".....	Wallis, H.
234 " Corset.....	Pentelow, W.
235 " Industrial.....	Hurst, C.
".....	Pentelow, Mrs.
236 " Union Boot and Shoe.....	Potter, H. J.
237 Kidderminster.....	Bridges, H.
".....	Bridges, Mrs.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
237 Kidderminster	Yates, F. W.
238 "	Yates, Mrs.
239 Killamarsh	Clark, T.
240 Kilmarnock Equitable	Walker, T. M.
241 Kilnhurst	Dempster, T.
242 King's Lynn	Senior, G.
"	Coston, J. E.
243 Kippax	Gee, W.
"	Norton, E.
244 Kirkby-in-Ashfield	Robinson, I.
245 " Manufacturers	Kershaw, J.
	Parr, G.
246 Lancaster	Hargreaves, H.
"	Oliver, Miss S.
"	Sandham, J.
"	Wolfendale, G.
247 Lane Dyehouse	Cheetham, P.
248 Langley Mill and Aldercar	Oxley, J. W.
" " " "	Williamson, J. H.
249 Leeds	Burnley, J. W.
"	Foster, S.
"	Gratton, J. C.
"	Higgins, W.
"	Shore, J.
"	Stainer, C.
250 Leek and Moorlands	Carding, J. J.
251 Leicester	Gorrie, A.
"	Kemp, S.
"	Mann, A.
"	Riley, J.
"	Stacey, F.
"	Taylor, S.
252 " Anchor Boot and Shoe	Freeman, M.
253 " Anchor Tenants	Mann, Mrs.
254 " Boot and Shoe	Jones, W.
"	Pepper, W. E.
255 " Carriage Builders	Stubbs, E. H.
256 " Co-operative Small Holders	Wills, Mrs.
257 " Morning Star Sundries	Bent, E.
258 " Printing	Kent, L. W.
259 " Self-Help Boot and Shoe	Bodicoat, J.
260 Leigh Friendly	Ainscough, T.
"	Parkinson, J.
"	Walkden, C.
"	Webb, J.
261 Leith Provident	Adams, Mrs.
"	McQuaid, J.
262 Leyland and Farington	Hargreaves, N.
"	Hilton, J. W.
263 Lincoln Equitable	Burt, T.
"	Harley, G.
"	Harris, Mrs.
"	Hudson, J.
"	Treavett, C.
"	Ward, G.
264 Lincoln Land and Building	Hewson, W.
265 Lisburn	Adams, J.
"	Barbour, H.
266 Littleborough	Cook, C. A.
"	Shepherd, J.
"	Walkden, J.
267 Liverpool	Edwards, J. A.
"	Lightfoot, Mrs.
"	Metcalfe, Mrs.
"	Norris, F. J.
"	Robinson, W.
268 Llanidloes	Williams, R.
269 Lockhurst Lane	Adams, A.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
269 Lockhurst Lane	Potter, R.
270 London—Anchor Tenants	Bustin, N.
271 " " Bookbinders	Summers, A.
272 " " Civil Service Supply	Greening, E. O.
273 " " Edmonton "	Barber, J.
" " " "	Cogman, W. H.
" " " "	Burville, A. W.
" " " "	Ellis, G.
" " " "	Jarrett, A.
" " " "	Malcolm, Mrs.
" " " "	Maton, J.
274 " " Hendon	Owen, Mrs.
" " " "	Adkins, S.
275 " " West London	Bailey, F.
276 Long Buckby	Farrell, R.
277 Long Eaton	Frisby, J. G.
" " " "	Astell, W.
" " " "	Davies, J.
" " " "	Dawson, T. H.
" " " "	Derry, A.
" " " "	Hancock, H. C.
" " " "	Pattison, L.
278 " " Printing	Edinborough, T. H.
279 Longridge	McCreary, J.
280 Longwood	Winterbottom, J. R.
281 Luton	Pym, P. J.
282 Macolesfield Equitable	Allan, A. S. H.
" " " "	Creswell, A.
" " " "	Fletcher, G. H.
" " " "	Swin-cn, John
" " " "	Turpin, Mrs.
283 " " Silk Manufacturing	Wallworth, Wm.
284 Manchester and Salford	Hill, J. S.
" " " "	Baron, T.
" " " "	Greig, C.
" " " "	Martin, T. H.
" " " "	Teer, Mrs.
" " " "	Whiteley, E.
285 " " and District Laundries	Withington, W.
286 " " Tenants	Wilkinson, J. C.
287 Mansfield and Sutton	Connor, J. E.
" " " "	Baxter, G.
" " " "	Dickinson, G. W.
" " " "	Millott, G. R.
288 Market Harboro'	Read, Mrs. M.
" " " "	Co., Mrs.
" " " "	Ringrose, F.
289 Markinch	Ringrose, Mrs.
" " " "	McKenzie, J.
290 Marsden, Yorks.	Snow, W. S.
291 Maryport	Marsden, J. W.
" " " "	Ferguson, G.
" " " "	Gilbertson, W.
" " " "	Graham, W. H.
" " " "	Ismay, N.
" " " "	Milburn, H.
292 Masbro'	Ainsworth, E.
" " " "	Caine, G. E.
" " " "	Ca' ley, W.
" " " "	Dawson, R. H.
" " " "	Milnes, A. E.
" " " "	Wood, J. W.
293 Melton Constable	Barrett, C. E.
294 Middlesbrough	Barnett, Mrs.
" " " "	Brown, Mrs.
" " " "	Pannell, J. T.
" " " "	Pittam, Mrs.
" " " "	Steel, Mrs.

NAME OF SOCIETY.

DELEGATES.

294 Middlesbrough	Summersgill, Mrs.
295 Middleton and Tonge .. .	Cowherd, R.
296 Midgley .. .	Hilton, J. J.
297 Midland Boot Manufacturers .. .	Jones, D.
298 Mid-Rhonda .. .	Simons, S.
299 Milom .. .	Arthur, T. L.
300 Milngavie .. .	Atkins, J.
301 Mirfield Perseverance .. .	Gilber, R.
302 Morley .. .	Mellon, J.
" .. .	Logan, J.
" .. .	Fudge, W.
" .. .	Hardy, T.
" .. .	Smith, F.
" .. .	Speight, T.
" .. .	Tolson, W. B.
303 Mossley .. .	Ward, J.
" .. .	Lee, L.
" .. .	Whitehead, J. W.
304 Moulton .. .	Wilks, H.
305 Musselburgh and Fisherrow .. .	James G. T.
" .. .	Lockwood, F.
" .. .	Sample, S.
306 National Labour Press .. .	Glazier, J. B.
307 " Co-operative Managers' Association .. .	Newbold, C. W.
308 Nelson .. .	Barraclough, J.
" .. .	Butterfield, E.
" .. .	Crowther, F.
" .. .	Hargreaves, R.
" .. .	Hartley, I.
309 Netherfield .. .	Pate, J.
" .. .	Jones, H.
310 Newark .. .	King, T.
311 Newbiggin-by-the-Sea .. .	Johnson, W. F.
312 Newbottle .. .	Doney, Councillor J.
313 Newcastle-on-Tyne .. .	Ritson, J.
" .. .	Orwin, J.
" .. .	Dyson, D.
314 Newcastle Household Furnishing .. .	Wade, W.
315 New Cumnock .. .	Young, T.
316 Newhaven .. .	Davison, J. W.
317 New Mills .. .	Scott, J.
" .. .	Chatfield, G.
318 New Moston .. .	Rothwell, R. H.
319 Newport (Mon.) .. .	Walsh, A.
" .. .	Davies, J.
" .. .	Davies, W. J.
" .. .	Garth, E.
" .. .	Garth, Mrs.
" .. .	Hurn, T. J.
320 New Swindon .. .	Jones, G. H.
" .. .	Davis, D.
" .. .	Carter, Mrs.
" .. .	Jones, R.
" .. .	Jones, Mrs.
321 Newton Abbot .. .	Thompson, C.
322 New Tredegar .. .	Watts, Mrs.
" .. .	Jones, Wm.
323 Northampton .. .	Lewis, W.
" .. .	Roberts, F. O.
" .. .	Rogers, W. J.
" .. .	Smith, J. S.
324 Northamptonshire Productive .. .	Wright, W. B.
325 North Shields .. .	Green, F.
" .. .	Bedford, A.
" .. .	Jones, M.
" .. .	Jeffery, F. J.
" .. .	Kinse, J.
326 North-Western Educational Association .. .	Brook, J. W.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
327 Norwich	Hagg, A. J.
328 Nottingham	Attenborough, W.
"	Brown, S. H.
"	Ellis, W.
329 "	Loach, J. E.
" Printers	Donse, W. J.
330 Nuneaton	Gopsill, A.
"	Hubbard, T.
"	Linnell, S.
"	Pollock, G.
"	Roberts, A.
"	Watkins, L. C.
331 Oldham Equitable	Hadfield, R.
" "	Hadfield, Mrs.
" "	Hobbs, Mrs.
" "	Hoyle, H.
" "	Morton, G.
" "	Waters, E.
332 " Industrial	Hill, J. H.
" "	Lowe, J.
" "	Taylor, J.
" "	Wellens, J.
333 Ossett	Booth, A.
"	Lucas, G.
"	Moxon, J.
"	Taylor, F.
334 Oswestry	Evans, E.
335 Oxford	Boyce, G.
"	Carter, G.
"	Young, Mrs.
336 Padiham	Lee, T. W.
"	Snape, J.
337 Paisley Equitable	Lewis, W.
338 " Manufacturing	Allan, J.
" "	Paton, Mrs. E.
" "	Wallace, Mrs.
339 " Provident	Adam, R.
" "	Vallance, H.
340 " Underwood Coal	Law, A.
341 Park Lane	Lewis, R.
"	Rimmer, W. H.
342 Parkstone and Bournemouth	Archer, Mrs.
" "	Cox, C.
" "	Hibberd, R.
343 Pathhead and Sinclairtown	Balfour, J.
" "	Balfour, Mrs.
" "	Keddie, R.
344 Penarth	Gibbon, J. M.
"	Sims, R. J.
345 Pendleton	Collinge, F. R.
"	Jennings, F.
"	Johnson, J.
"	Nuttall, H.
"	Pickles, W.
"	Settle, Mrs.
346 Penge and Beckenham	Tingley, W. E.
347 Penrith	Jackson, T. W.
"	Storey, J.
348 Perth (City of)	Farquhar, G.
349 Peterborough	Bredbury, J. A.
"	Brabury, Mrs.
"	Brown, J.
"	Hipkin, J.
"	Peake, S.
"	Sanderson, Mrs.
350 Pioneer Boot Works(Northants.)	Webster, J. G.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
351 Platt Bridge	Higson, C.
352 Pleasley and Pleasley Hill	Barrett, G.
353 Plymouth.....	Maxwell, T.
"	Braginton, R.
"	Cocks, S. H.
"	Finch, W. G.
"	Harvey, W. H.
"	Tonkin, W. R.
"	West, F. H.
354 Pollokshaws	Anderson, J. E.
"	Armstrong, J.
355 Pontefract	Depledge, B.
"	Dixon, A.
"	Hough, E.
"	Webster, O.
356 Port Glasgow (Fore Street)	Buchan, D.
357 Portobello	Semple, Wm.
358 Portsea Island	Mihell, J. H.
"	Sketch, Mrs.
"	Willis, W. J.
359 Preston.....	Bromiley, J.
"	Catterall, J.
"	Holden, B.
"	Laraway, E.
"	Newsham, J.
"	Whittle, W. W.
360 Prestwich.....	Briggs, Miss
"	Cattle, R. W.
"	Hilton, J.
"	Rankine, J. H.
"	Whittaker, R. H.
361 Queensbury.....	Ingham, C.
"	Perkin, F.
362 Queensferry	Marshall, E. R.
"	Thompson, R.
363 Radcliffe and Pilkington	Davenport, J.
"	Emery, E.
"	Farrington, A.
"	Hampson, F. R.
"	Rosta, A.
"	Taylor, P.
364 Radstock	Ashman, G.
"	Rostance, A.
365 Ramsbottom Industrial	Lawson, J. H.
"	Lindley, W.
"	Whittaker, J.
366 Ramsgate.....	Bishenden, T.
367 Raunds	Annie, R.
368 Rawdon	Brown, E.
"	Sharp, T. P.
369 Reading	Beckley, J.
"	Hickey, E. J.
"	Schofield, W.
"	Wetherall, C. W.
370 Ripley	Parr, Miss
"	Taylor, W.
"	Webb, D.
371 Ripponden	Wadsworth, S.
372 River and District (Dover)	Fairey, J.
"	Fairey, Mrs.
373 Rochester.....	Bridge, H.
374 Rochdale Pioneers	Groarke, M. D.
"	Ormerod, T. H.
375 Roe Green (Worsley)	Richardson, B.
376 Rugby	Cain, H. W.
"	Gay, C. H.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
376 Rugby	Hopcraft, A. F.
377 Rugeley	Gillard, G.
378 Runcorn and Widnes	Ashley, T.
" "	Cosier, T.
" "	Lambert, W.
" "	Morris, W. M.
" "	Richards, C. H.
" "	Scragg, J.
379 Rushden	Coles, G. W.
"	Spencer, J.
380 St. Helens	Davies, C.
"	Lawrenson, T.
"	Newing, J.
"	Rennie, R.
"	Waring, R.
381 Sandbach	Booth, G.
"	Gibson, W.
"	Wood, M.
382 Sawston	Resbury, W.
383 Scapegoat Hill	Armitage, Mrs. J. S.
384 Scarborough	Collier, T. C.
"	Jenkinson, B.
385 Scottish Co-operator	Carruthers, J.
386 " Co-operative Veterans' Association	Pettigrew, W.
387 " Co-operative Wholesale	Archbold, W.
" "	Bardner, J.
" "	Campbell, H.
" "	Gallacher, W.
" "	Stewart, R.
" "	Stirling, T. B.
" "	Weir, A. B.
388 " Laundries	Adam, R.
389 Scunthorpe	Newbert, W.
390 Seaham Harbour	O'Hare, P.
" "	Usher, G.
391 Selston	Clarke, G. H.
392 Senghenydd and Aber Valley	Wilmot, W.
393 Sheerness	Mason, W. H.
394 " Economical	Reece, W. C.
395 Sheffield and Ecclesall	Baggaley, J.
" "	Penny, J.
" "	Ross, W. L.
" "	Sandford, F. W.
" "	Swift, U.
" "	Walton, T.
396 Shettleston	Macarthur, A.
397 Shrewsbury	Dean, A. E.
"	Dean, Mrs.
"	Kirkham, J.
398 Silverdale	Asbwell, W.
"	Castle, R.
"	Viggars, J.
399 Skelmersdale	Roberts, E.
"	Watkinson, S.
400 Skipton	Tillotson, W.
401 Slaithwaite	Anstwick, G.
"	Holt, Mrs. C.
402 Slough and District	Biggs, W. H.
"	Blackburn, J. A.
403 Sobo (Birmingham)	Banister, W. E.
"	Woodward, P.
"	Woodward, Mrs. E.
404 Southampton	Buchan, Mrs. M. E.
"	Jeffery, E. S.
"	Pook, Mrs. L.
405 Southport	Allen, J.
"	Anderson, J. W.
"	Gaynor, J.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
406 South Shields.....	Curbison, J. R.
407 "Southwell....	Hetherington, W.
408 Sowerby Bridge	Arnold, G. A.
" "	Fishwick, A.
" "	Firth, W.
409 Spalding	Hobson, A.
" "	Buttery, T.
410 Sperope Boot and Shoe	Cadmore, T. W.
411 Stafford	Hincks, A.
" "	Clewlow, J.
" "	Crighton, A. F.
" "	Moreton, A.
412 Stanton Hill	Shaw, J.
" "	Toon, W. E.
413 St pleford and Sandiacre	Townsend, T. H.
414 Station Town	Elliot, W. W.
" "	Gibson, J. L.
415 Staveley Town	Brailsford, H.
" "	Smith, W.
416 Stevenston	Reid, P.
417 Stirling	Cameron, J.
" "	Macpherson, W.
" "	Robbie, D.
418 Stockport	Bevan, S. R.
" "	Bevan, Mrs. E.
" "	Hewitt, H.
" "	Higginbottom, F.
419 " (Great Moor)	Shaw, C. E.
420 Stocksbridge	Kemp, G. H.
" "	Brown, F.
" "	Kenworthy, J. C.
421 Stockton-on-Tees	Moxon, W.
" "	Day, Mrs. M. E.
" "	Morrison, J.
" "	Robson, T.
" "	Rowntree, G.
422 Stowmarket.....	Short, C.
423 Stratford (London)	Wade, W.
" "	Cordell, Mrs. G.
" "	Elliott, W. H.
" "	McGiff, T. M.
" "	Murrell, G. W.
" "	Webster, J.
" "	Whitlock, S. F.
424 Swalwell	Ruddick, E.
" "	Stubbs, T.
425 Swansea and District	Hunt, H.
" "	Probert, R.
426 " Printers	Bevan, W.
427 Swarthmoor and Ulverston	Coward, G.
428 Styai	Mason, A.
429 Taibach and Port Talbot	Bowen, E. J.
430 Tamworth Industrial ..	Rees, E. T.
" "	French, W. J.
431 Ten Acres and Stirchley	Walker, Hy. F.
" "	Bengough, F. J.
" "	Cheetham, J. W.
" "	Hart, J.
433 Thomson, Wm., and Sons	Smallwood, Mrs. R.
433 Throckley and District	Langley, F. C.
" "	Forster, T.
434 Tipton	King, W.
" "	Cifton, C. H.
435 Todmorden Industrial	Willisford, J. E.
" "	Bentley, J. W.
" "	Mitchell, J. T. S.
436 Ton Industrial	Raby, R.
" "	Edwards, D.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
436 Ton Industrial	Pugh, D. T.
437 "Torquay "	Smith, E.
438 Tottington Equitable	Thompson, H.
439 "Industrial	Swindles, E.
440 Tranent	Howarth, J.
441 Tredegar	Dunsmore, J.
"	Howells, L.
"	Jones, D. H.
442 Tunbridge Wells	Whitney, W. J.
443 Twerton-on-Avon	Neve, J. T.
"	Cerdiner, Mrs. H.
"	Swain, H. J.
444 Tyldesley	Wibley, Mrs. A.
"	Abbott, W.
"	Worthington, J. T.
445 Uddingston	Breadfoot, J.
"	McEwan, J.
446 Vale of Leven (Alexandria)	Turnbull, J.
447 Wakefield Borough	Brown, J.
" "	Dawson, F. F.
" "	Keighley, C. H.
" Industrial	Bedford, H.
" "	Marsh, R.
" "	Milner, J. E.
" "	Morrell, A.
449 Walkden	Hall, W.
"	Holden, J.
"	Stones, A.
450 Walmer Bridge	Thornley, W.
451 Walsall	Abbotts, W.
"	Cooper, W. H.
"	Dix, G.
"	Spanswick, Mrs. A.
"	Thickett, J.
"	Watkins, T.
452 Walsall Locks and Cart Gear	Harrison, W. G.
453 Warrington	Faulkner, G.
"	Jones, Mrs. S. A.
"	Sephton, J.
"	Shaw, G.
"	Sherburn, W. H.
"	Upson, J.
454 Waterloo	Lowe, G.
455 Wellingborough	Betts, W.
"	May, W. J.
456 Welshpool	Merenith, T. A.
457 West Calder	Macfarlane, T.
"	Mackie, D.
"	McKenna, P.
"	Murphy, B.
"	Pratt, W.
"	Robb, C.
458 Westhoughton Friendly	Simkin, P.
"	Smith, W.
459 Weston-super-Mare	Treasure, A. V.
460 West Pelton	Page, J.
"	Scott, R.
461 West Stanley	Henderson, T.
"	Nixon, I. C.
"	Whitfield, R.
"	Wilkinson, J.
462 West Wylam and Prudhoe	Middleton, G. E.
"	Winder, J.
463 West Yorks. Coal Federation	Turner, B.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
464 Whitefield and Unsworth	McLune, D. W.
465 Wilsden	Mitchell, R.
466 Wigan	Finney, R.
"	Jackson, H.
"	Rimmer, R.
"	Thirlwall, W.
467 Wigston Hosiers	Howkins, H. H.
468 Willesden and District	Harlin, W. E.
"	White, T.
469 Willington Quay and Howdon	Thompson, J.
"	Thompson, J.
470 Windhill	Brooksbank, J. W.
"	Holmes, F.
"	Holmes, W.
"	Morton, N. J.
"	Taylor, Mrs. H.
471 Windy Nook	Gibson, W.
"	Lightfoot, T.
472 Winnington and Northwich	Drysdale, W.
"	McKenzie, A.
"	Smith, T.
"	Vernon, J.
473 Winsford	Barnes, E.
"	Burrows, A.
"	Fryer, W.
"	Holden, A.
474 Wishaw	McEwan, J.
"	Timmins, J.
475 Woking	Chapman, G.
"	Weston, J.
476 Wolverton	Dormer, J. P.
"	Foulkner, D.
"	Hyde, A. H.
477 Woolwich—Royal Arsenal	Callaghan, E. R.
"	Davis, W. T.
"	Grinling, C. H.
"	Kelly, Mrs. L.
"	Lockyear, F.
"	Ross, E.
478 Worcester	Heffer, F.
"	Williams, W.
479 Workington Beehive	Beattie, J. R.
"	Chaplin, J.
"	Chaplin, Mrs. J.
480 " Industrial	Blair, R.
"	Casson, L.
"	Wilson, J.
481 Workson	Kearns, F.
"	Scott, H.
"	Wilson, J. T.
482 Wrexham	Davies, R.
"	Jones, E.
"	Wilkinson, J.
483 Ynysybwl	Hazell, W.
"	Morgan, A.
"	Morgan, S.
"	Vaughan, P.
484 York Equitable Industrial	Anderson, T.
"	Bamforth, J. T.
"	Horsman, W.
"	Wilson, C. E.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

Midland Section.

485 Birmingham	Mander H. C.
486 Derby	Levick, F.
487 Leicester	Drinkwater, S.
488 Lincoln	Cadmore, W. T.

NAME OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.	DELEGATES.
<i>Midland Section—Continued.</i>	
489 Northampton and Earls Barton.....	James, G. T.
490 Nottingham	Blood, W.
491 Shropshire and Mid-Wales	Griffiths, E.
492 Wellingborough and Kettering	Foulds, A. J.
<i>Northern Section.</i>	
493 South Durham	Readshaw, T.
<i>North-Western Section.</i>	
494 Airedale	Firth, A.
495 Bolton	Barlow, T.
496 Dewsbury	Liley, R. B.
497 Macclesfield, Crewe, and District	Casson, J.
498 Manchester	Pogson, D.
499 North-east Lancashire	Sharples, J.
500 East Yorkshire	Nicholson, J.
501 South Yorkshire	Cusworth, E.
<i>Scottish Section.</i>	
502 Ayrshire	Imrie, T.
503 Border Counties	Shortreed, P. B.
504 Central	Prentice, R.
505 East of Scotland	Gready, W. D.
506 Falkirk	Rule, H.
507 Fife and Kinross	Gillespie, A. H.
508 Glasgow and Suburbs	Hamilton, C.
509 Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen	Howie, J. D.
510 Renfrew	Paton, J.
<i>Southern Section.</i>	
511 Beds. and Bucks.	Goldsmith, C. T.
512 Cambridge	Barnard, T.
513 Essex and Suffolk	Thorburn, F. X.
514 Hants.	Hibberd, R.
515 North Metropolitan	Burn, A. C.
516 Oxford	Taffs, L. H.
<i>South-Western Section.</i>	
517 Bristol and Somerset	Gould, F.
518 Cornwall	Jose, W. J.
519 Devon	Munday, E. R. S.
<i>Western Section.*</i>	
520 Brecon, Monmouth, and East Glamorgan	Prothero, T. H.
521 Mid-Glamorgan	Edwards, W.
522 West Wales	Williams, T. R.

Total number of persons present at Congress, 1,268.



SPECIAL MEETING of the CENTRAL BOARD.

Friday and Saturday, 12th and 13th April, 1918.

A meeting of the Central Board was held at the offices of the Co-operative Union, Hanover Street, Manchester, on Friday, 12th April, and Saturday, 13th April, 1918, and the following is a report of the proceedings.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (chairman of the United Board) occupied the chair, and he was supported by the general secretary of the Co-operative Union (Mr. A. Whitehead) and the assistant secretary (Mr. T. Horrocks).

Present :

IRISH SECTION.

Messrs. R. Fleming and J. Palmer.

MIDLAND SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bastard, J. Butcher, W. J. Douse, G. Harris, A. H. Jones, J. Langley, W. Millerchip, J. Millington, C. A. W. Saxton, and J. G. Shacklock.

NORTHERN SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bedford, J. Davison, S. Galbraith, M.P., and W. R. Rae; also A. Stoddart (secretary).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. R. Blair, J. R. Cunliffe, W. Dewhurst, S. Fairbrother, S. R. Foster, G. Goodenough, J. Greenwood, W. Gregory, F. Hayward, A. Horricks, J. Johnston, G. Major, T. Redfearn, W. Swindlehurst, J. Thompson, T. Way, B. Woolfenden, H. Stuttard (hon. member), and J. Bradshaw (secretary).

SCOTTISH SECTION.

Messrs. J. Allan, J. Deans, P. Loney, J. Lucas, J. Patterson, A. Purdie, and G. Wilson.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Mrs. Gasson, Messrs. J. H. Bate, W. T. Charter, M. H. Clear, S. Foulger, A. Hainsworth, E. King, R. Rowsell, W. J. Salmon; also H. J. May (hon. member) and B. Williams (secretary).

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Mrs. Found, Messrs. G. A. Ramsay and W. H. Watkins.

WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. Bryaant, R. R. Chappell, J. P. Davies, D. Evans, H. Watkins, and D. Williams.

Also the General and Assistant Secretaries.

Letters of apology for absence were read from Messrs. G. Bisset, W. Brown, and J. Morrell (ill).

The CHAIRMAN said his first duty was of a melancholy character. Since their last meeting one of their members, in the person of Mr. J. M. Wilkie (of the Scottish Section) had passed away under circumstances pretty well known to them, and he thought the least they could do was to rise in their places as a token of respect to his memory, an appreciation of the services he had rendered the movement, and of their sympathy with the bereaved wife and family. This was done.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and accepted as a correct record.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said they had received a suggestion from one of the sectional boards that tellers should be appointed at the meetings of the Central Board. The suggestion was agreed to, and Messrs. F. Hayward (North-Western Section) and R. Rowsell (Southern Section) were appointed.

ABSENT MEMBERS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY read letters of apology for non-attendance from Messrs. Brown (South-Western Section), Bisset (Scottish Section), and Mr. Morrell (North-Western Section). Mr. Morrell intimated that he was slowly recovering from his illness, and the members of the Board decided to send him a message of good cheer.

QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The GENERAL SECRETARY drew attention to the fact that at the previous meeting it was decided that members of the Central Board representing the

Co-operative Union on the Joint Parliamentary Committee should place their services at the disposal of the committee to a greater extent than would be the case in normal times, and that the matter should be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Board.

Mr. W. H. WALKINS (South-Western Section), representative of the Union on the Joint Parliamentary Committee, said the arrangement which was made by the Co-operative Union and the Joint Parliamentary Committee had worked very satisfactorily, and it was difficult to see how any other arrangement would have been so satisfactory as that had proved to be. But now things were getting into a more orderly condition, the attendance of the Union's representatives on what they called the Retail Sub-committee had been restricted to one or two days a week, as required. Previously it had been necessary for them to be in attendance nearly the whole week, week after week. That was the present position.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section), another of the Union's representatives on the Parliamentary Committee, supplemented the remarks made by Mr. Watkins, and said the present position was largely due to the fact that many of the questions they had to deal with were now being attended to by the Consumers' Council, upon which they had direct representation.

Mr. WATKINS moved—"That the report he had submitted be received, and that the arrangement come to at the previous meeting between the Co-operative Union and the Joint Parliamentary Committee be continued.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

MR. GREENING AND CONGRESS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY read a letter from Mr. E. O. Greening (honorary member of the Southern Sectional Board) to the effect that in view of certain personal financial difficulties he was debating with himself as to whether he should incur the expense of attending the Congress at Liverpool. It was their Jubilee Congress, and he had missed very few congresses since the first. He also pointed out that he was the first to move in regard to the holding of the first congress. He would like to attend the Jubilee Congress, and wondered whether the Co-operative Union could see its way to voting him a special allowance equivalent to that which was given to an elected member of the Central Board.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) wondered whether Mr. Greening asked that the Central Board should make him a grant out of the Edward Owen Greening Fund.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the letter did not read to him that way.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) thought perhaps it would be a bad precedent to begin paying the honorary members of the board in the same way as they did the elected members, but considered there were grounds for making an exception in the case of Mr. Greening. Evidently he attended their first congress, and was the first to move in the direction of co-operators

having an annual congress. Seeing that the Liverpool Congress was going to be their Jubilee Congress, he thought they might make an effort to secure the attendance of everybody who was present at their first congress. That being so, he did not think they ought to quarrel about paying Mr. Greening's expenses under the circumstances, in order that he might be with them at Liverpool.

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section) said he felt that this was an exceptional request that ought not to be granted.

A question was asked as to how much Mr. Greening was drawing from the fund bearing his name at the present time, and the General Secretary replied "£4 per week."

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) seconded the resolution, and, pointing out that Mr. Greening acted as organising secretary of the first congress, expressed the view that they would be justified in making an exception in his case.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) asked what was meant by paying expenses, and several members said that if the resolution was adopted Mr. Greening would be treated as an elected, instead of as an honorary, member of the Southern Sectional Board.

Mr. E. KING (Southern Section) moved that Mr. Greening's request be acceded to, and that the money be taken from the fund standing to his credit in the bank.

Mr. D. EVANS (Western Section) said he was sure they would all like to see Mr. Greening present at their Jubilee Congress, and he moved—"That his expenses be met by a levy on the members of the Central Board."

Another member of the Board seconded.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) expressed a good deal of respect for the work done for the movement by Mr. Greening, and had every desire to see him at the Liverpool Congress; but it seemed to him strange that the suggestion of paying his expenses should come from Mr. Greening himself. How was it that it did not come from the Southern Sectional Board? It was the way in which the matter had been brought forward he did not like.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) said he was just a little bit enamoured of the way the matter had been brought forward. Mr. Greening might have gone to the Southern Sectional Board, and got his request through in that way. But he did not do that; he came direct to the Central Board, and he (Mr. Davison) was pleased he had made his request in the way he had done.

The GENERAL SECRETARY read an extract from the rules to the effect that honorary members could attend meetings of their respective sections and the annual meetings of the Central Board and Congress, but they must pay their own expenses.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) pointed out that the rules said, by special request of the Central Board, but this was a request from Mr. Greening himself.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) said that he had no objection to altering his resolution to read: "That the Central Board invite Mr. Greening to attend their Jubilee Congress at Liverpool, and that they (the Co-operative Union) pay his expenses."

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section), speaking as the chairman, said he made that request now on behalf of the Southern Board, viz., that Mr. Greening be allowed to attend the Liverpool Congress, and that his expenses be borne by the Co-operative Union.

This was agreed to.

Mr. D. Evans' proposal that the members of the Board levy themselves to pay Mr. Greening's expenses was negatived.

Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South-Western Section) moved—"That permission be given the sectional boards to invite their respective honorary members to the Jubilee Congress on the same terms as elected members."

Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section) seconded.

Mr. G. BASTARD (Midland Section) spoke against the resolution. He did not wish to depreciate in any way the services which honorary members of the Boards had rendered the movement, but the services which they had had from Mr. Greening were altogether different.

Mr. W. GREGORY said the matter was entirely out of order, and moved the next business.

On the vote being taken there were nine for the resolution and thirty-two against.

MIDLAND SECTION : QUESTION OF PERMANENT SECRETARY.

The GENERAL SECRETARY announced that a letter had been received from the Midland Sectional Board containing copy of a resolution passed by the Board in favour of the appointment of a permanent secretary for the section. He understood the Board was now going to move the adoption of that resolution.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) moved the resolution, and said he thought very few words from him were needed to convince the Board of the necessity of a permanent secretary for the Midland Section. If they went through the figures in the present report and the previous Congress Report they would then realise the number of societies, membership, and, to some extent, the area covered by the section, and how utterly impossible it was for a man who was serving an employer in the ordinary way to devote the necessary time to the work of the section and the Union, in order to do it efficiently and with credit to himself, the section, and the Union. Certain matters arose in connection with their societies which required the attention of the sectional secretary, but he was finding it increasingly difficult to get away from his ordinary employment to deal with them. Since the war began they had even found it necessary to arrange the meetings of the Board to meet his convenience. They had been fortunate in regard to their sectional

secretaries. Their previous secretary was Mr. D. McInnes (director of the Wholesale Society), and he was able to devote a fair amount of time to the work; but even Mr. McInnes, notwithstanding his ability and adaptability, found the work too much, and it led to a breakdown in health and compelled him to resign the position. Besides the work to be done, the appointment of a permanent secretary was fully justified by the amount of subscriptions which the Union received from the societies in the section. Therefore, looking at the matter from all points of view, the Sectional Board had come to the conclusion that the Central Board would realise the justness of the claim for the appointment of a permanent sectional secretary, and that such an appointment would be to the benefit of the section, the Co-operative Union, and the movement generally. They did not, of course, know what the future had in store for them; they did not know what was going to happen from day to day; but they had every reason for believing that when this terrible struggle was over the need for a permanent secretary for the Midland Section would be even infinitely greater than what it was at the present time, and that he should be unhampered and untrammelled by any extraneous duties or by any other employer.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) seconded the resolution. He said he wanted the Central Board to realise that they had not considered the appointment of a permanent secretary in any hasty manner; they had been considering it for a long time, because the work for their secretary had been growing heavier and heavier, apart from circumstances created by the war. Societies wanted help and advice immediately sometimes, and the only solution of the problem was the appointment of someone who could go to their assistance without delay. Other reasons were the need of an effective link between the Sectional Board and the societies and the Co-operative Union and the area to be covered, which they considered too large to be efficiently covered by a man in his spare time. The appointment of a permanent secretary would mean a little extra expense, but they believed that would be more than justified by results. They were asking the Central Board to treat the matter sympathetically, because they felt, unless something was done, and done quickly, the work would suffer more than it had done. Some of the detailed work now done at the central office would also be taken over by a full-time man.

Mr. A. HORRICKS (North-Western Section), without desiring to express any opinion regarding the merits of the application, suggested that this item of business and item 5 (Labour Adviser) should be deferred and discussed along with item 8 (New Man-Power Bill and its effect on the staff).

Mr. S. R. FOSTER (North-Western Section) thought the Midland Section was entitled to a permanent secretary. Between the income of the Midland Section and that of the Southern Section (which had a permanent secretary) there were only a few pounds difference. He considered a permanent secretary would be very useful in the Midland Section.

Mr. J. PATTERSON (Scottish Section) expressed the view that the resolu-

tion should have the approval of the meeting. Anyone placed under a private firm and doing official work in connection with the co-operative movement would know that the position to-day was not the same as it was some years ago. The same liberty was not available, and he could feel for the secretary of the Midland Section in his present position. He was only a district secretary, but he considered the work done in his district would almost require a man in full time.

Mr. D. EVANS said they of the Western Section had much pleasure in supporting the application of the Midland Section. They felt this question of permanent secretary had become acute in their own section, and the time was fast approaching when the Central Board would seriously have to consider an application from the Western Section for the appointment of a full-time secretary. Propaganda work alone demanded the appointment of a full-time and very capable man. He thought, after what had been said, a permanent secretary for the Midland Section was absolutely necessary.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section), in supporting the resolution, said the only remark he had to make was that he had been surprised the Midland Sectional Board did not make the application for the appointment of a permanent secretary ten years ago. He thought everybody would admit that the work of the various sections was double what it was ten years ago. They should not have a dissentient voice to this resolution.

Mr. R. R. CHAPPELL (Western Section) inquired whether the Survey Committee had any reference to this question in its report.

Mr. GREGORY: No.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and adopted unanimously.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said he took it that the meeting left it to the United Board to arrange the details (including the advertising of the position) and making an appointment. Agreed.

LABOUR ADVISER.

The GENERAL SECRETARY recalled the decision come to at the previous meeting regarding the Labour Adviser, which was to the effect that the question of Mr. Pollitt beginning his duties should be considered six months later, and that any likely change in the position of the Union staff from a military service point of view should be taken into account. The six months had now elapsed, and though there had been no change so far as the members of the staff were concerned, he and the chairman had been having a few words about the new Man-Power Bill and the effect it might have on the remaining members of the office staff. The Joint Parliamentary Committee had the matter under discussion earlier on in the week, and they were going to move as soon as they had some definite information regarding the Bill. It was suggested that the Joint Parliamentary Committee should endeavour to get the Co-operative Union classed as a national institution, and if that could be done they might have some hope of retaining the members of their staff under the new scheme of calling up men for military service. If they

lost all the members of the staff up to fifty years of age, he would be the only one left, and that would mean suspending the work of the Union to a very great extent.

Mr. MILLERCHIP said that, having regard to the scheduled list of occupations and the ages at which men were to be taken, he did not think the new Man-Power Bill was going to seriously affect the staff at all.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said he had only been able to glance at a copy of the Bill, but as far as he could gather the second call for men, which would take in men over forty-one years of age, would affect three or four members of the staff.

Mr. R. FLEMING (Irish Section) asked if the General Secretary could assure the Board that the interests of the person appointed to the position of Labour Adviser were suffering in any way from their delay in calling upon him to begin his duties for such a considerable length of time; unless he could give them some such assurance it seemed to him they were inflicting a certain amount of hardship upon the man concerned.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said he was afraid he was suffering to this extent: he was not getting the same amount as he was entitled to as Labour Adviser to the Co-operative Union; but he understood his present position had not changed since his appointment as an official of the Co-operative Union.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) said it looked to him as though Mr. Pollitt was bound to suffer. He was wondering whether they could leave the position this way: that if any member of the staff had to go for military service the United Board ask Mr. Pollitt to fill the position until he returned. That might assist the work of the Union.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) inquired whether it was not a fact that the co-operative movement was already suffering because Mr. Pollitt had not taken up his position.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) said he was going to tell the Board very definitely that societies were suffering because they had no one at the Union to advise them on labour matters. He gave the negotiations which societies had to conduct with the A.U.C.E. through the hours and wages boards and the conciliation boards as an instance. The A.U.C.E. had a trained staff to conduct those negotiations, and in that respect were placed better than the co-operative societies. He thought they wanted a Labour Adviser very badly at the present time.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) said various reasons had been put forward why Mr. Pollitt should not begin his duties, but he wanted to be assured that they were genuine and did not cover a desire to keep Mr. Pollitt from having the appointment at all. He did not think the way they had treated this matter reflected any credit on them as a Central Board. If Mr. Pollitt was not capable of filling the position, then let them say, "Mr. Pollitt, we cannot take you"; but if he was, they ought to put him in now.

The GENERAL SECRETARY took exception to Mr. Davison's remarks, saying they appeared to him to be a reflection on the office staff. He hoped Mr.

Davison did not think there was any feeling between Mr. Pollitt and the staff regarding his appointment—"No, no"—because he could assure him there was not the slightest. Mr. Pollitt came into the office very often, and the relations between him and the staff were very friendly. He just wanted to remove from Mr. Davison's mind what appeared to him to be a wrong impression.

Mr. DAVISON said he had no intention of throwing any reflection upon the staff, but he did not like the situation as it presented itself to him.

The GENERAL SECRETARY expressed the view that if Mr. Pollitt began his duties at the present time the position of the members of the staff would be jeopardised. He had the opportunity of discussing the matter with the assistant recruiting officer the other day, and he said it would be a very dangerous thing for the Union to take a new man on its staff, as it might probably be regarded by the authorities as substitution.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) said he believed the question of appointing a Labour Adviser emanated from the North-Western Sectional Board, as the result of certain remarks which he himself made at one of the Board meetings. He was a member of one of the Yorkshire conciliation boards, and their experience simply supported what Mr. Blair had said. As a matter of fact, it was because of what was taking place at the conciliation boards that he raised the question of a Labour Adviser at their sectional board meetings. He believed the secretary of the Yorkshire District Council of the A.U.C.E. was a member of the district conciliation board, and he not only appeared and laid the case for the A.U.C.E. before the board, but if the case went to the National Conciliation Board he again sat and supported the case laid before the district conciliation board. They wanted someone who could appear before the district conciliation board on their behalf, and if the case was not settled to appear before the National Conciliation Board, in the same way as the representative of the A.U.C.E. did. He thought their Labour Adviser should be that person. In any case, he thought it was time this question was settled one way or the other; as it stood, it was an injustice to Mr. Pollitt, besides placing the Co-operative Union at a disadvantage with the A.U.C.E. in the way he had indicated.

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON (Midland Section) said he would like to know whether the A.U.C.E. had got its officials exempt from military service. He thought if they told the authorities that they wanted Mr. Pollitt for entirely new work his appointment would not be regarded as substitution.

Mr. R. R. CHAPPELL (Western Section) said there was one point they appeared to have lost sight of: Would it be to the advantage of the co-operative movement if they asked Mr. Pollitt to begin his duties as Labour Adviser and lost a member of their present staff as a consequence? A Labour Adviser was a new venture for them, and he thought they could not begin fresh ventures without a license. He suggested they should allow the matter to lie over until they were in a position to see the effect the new Man-Power Bill was likely to have on the remaining members of their staff.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) proposed that any decision be deferred until they met on the Saturday before Congress. They would then know exactly what were the terms of the new Man-Power Bill, and how the members of the staff were likely to be affected.

Mr. CHAPPELL seconded.

Another member of the Board suggested that in the meantime inquiries might be made as to how the A.U.C.E. had got exemptions for the branch secretaries and the Co-operative Union could not get definite exemptions for sectional secretaries.

The GENERAL SECRETARY stated that the Joint Parliamentary Committee had been inquiring into this particular matter. It did seem strange that the secretary of a branch of the A.U.C.E., with perhaps only twenty or thirty members, could secure exemption, and the manager or the secretary of a co-operative society had to go.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) said perhaps the reason could be found in the fact that one was a trade union and the other a co-operative society.

The resolution moved by Mrs. Gasson, "That the whole question of Labour Adviser stand adjourned until the meeting of the Central Board before Congress," was then put to the vote and adopted.

TUESDAY'S MEETING AT CONGRESS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY asked the members of the Board to note that there would be a meeting of the Board immediately following the rising of Congress on the Tuesday. Notices would also be sent out to newly elected members. The General Secretary further stated that it was hoped to make arrangements whereby the results of the elections for members of the Board would be published in the *Co-operative News* before Congress.

MEMBERS OF THE SURVEY COMMITTEE ATTENDING CONGRESS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said that the Survey Committee asked for permission for members of the committee who were not members of the Central Board to attend Congress, in the same way as they did last year; and a resolution granting this permission was adopted.

NEW MAN-POWER BILL.

The next item on the agenda was "New Man-Power Bill and its effect on the Staff," and the GENERAL SECRETARY suggested that Mr. H. J. May (secretary of the Joint Parliamentary Committee) might be in a position to make a statement.

Mr. MAY said he could only say that at the present moment it was quite impossible for him to add anything to what had already been said by Mr. Whitehead regarding the new Man-Power Bill. The only copies of the new

Orders available that morning had been given to the Press, and subsequently to the chairman of the tribunals. They had a representative at the offices of the National Ministry a good part of the day before, endeavouring to get a copy, but it was almost impossible to get anywhere near the place, and interviews were absolutely refused. He had managed to sight a copy in the Ministry, but copies were not allowed to go out except to the Press. Before he left London he gave instructions for a copy to be procured if at all possible, and he hoped to have it in the morning. He had done his level best to get some information since the proposals came before the House, but it had been impossible to make appointments or even get any sort of interviews with even subordinate officials in the Ministry of National Service. That was about all the information available at the present time. They understood, of course, that Orders now being issued were not the outcome of the new Man-Power Bill, and that they were being issued in fulfilment of an Order in Council under the old Military Service Act. So far as the new Bill was concerned, no action was being taken in that direction, and could not be taken at present, because the Bill was not yet passed. They were absolutely in the dark as to what the Government's proposals were or what was likely to be the ultimate form of the Bill. There was, therefore, time to bring pressure upon the Government to modify the Bill in some respects, but whether that would be successful or not the next day or so would show.

The GENERAL SECRETARY asked Mr. May whether there was any probability of the Co-operative Union being classed as a national institution?

Mr. MAY said that up to the present it had not been possible to get any special consideration in that respect. The whole question of exemptions was now in the melting-pot, and they would have to begin their work all over again. They sent out a form to societies some months ago asking them for particulars of their indispensable men, and he honestly believed the main effect of that form, by giving information to the military authorities, was that more men were called up than those for whom they secured exemptions. Many societies had their general managers and managing secretaries called up, and the committee had to take other steps to secure their release. They issued a circular to societies on 16th January, and subsequently a considerable number of cases were dealt with and the position of the societies relieved up to the present time as a result. He had no reason to believe that even those would remain in view of the legislation going forward that week; in fact, Orders were out now for reviewing them.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) again raised the question of trade union branch secretaries getting exemption, and attributed the fact to trade-unionists making more noise than co-operators. He suggested they should make greater use of their power to secure for their managers and secretaries at least even treatment to that which was given to trade union officials.

Mr. MAY said they realised the difficulty of the position put by Mr. Millington, and so far as he could see at the moment he did not know how they were going to overcome it. Mr. Millington suggested they should make

a big shout about it, but he (Mr. May) did not think they would accomplish very much by merely shouting. The A.U.C.E. did not get advantage for itself; it came in at the tail of the trade union movement and the labour organisations and shared in the consideration given to them. They also had to remember that the Government regarded the co-operative movement as a commercial undertaking, and that its interests in those matters had to be considered in common with the interests of the other trading concerns of the country. They had tried to convince the Government that they were a consumers' organisation, and that the basis of their movement was economic and different from the rest of the trading concerns. They had advanced very much during the war along the lines of convincing them that they were entitled, by reason of what they were doing in regard to food supplies, to special treatment other than that meted out to the ordinary trading organisations.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) said that they who were brought into close touch with those matters would appreciate to the full the views Mr. May had expressed. It was a question of votes inside the House and outside. Mr. Clynes himself said, when the question of representation on Food Control Committees was under consideration, they must expect the Labour Party to have preference because politically they were stronger. Those were not Mr. Clynes's actual words, but they conveyed the sense of his meaning and the sense in which they were taken. Mr. Clynes was at a meeting of the Consumers' Council when he spoke.

Mr. F. HAYWARD (North-Western Section) said the new Man-Power Bill was not only an unfortunate matter from the point of view of the Co-operative Union, but also from the point of societies. He thought the Central Board ought to take all the steps open to it to press upon the Government the necessity of recognising the Co-operative Union as a national organisation. The Union should also exercise the power it possessed to see that the co-operative movement got equal treatment to that which was accorded to other sections of the commercial world. In his opinion they had had less than that in the past, and the reason was, as other speakers had said, they had not made a big noise in a political sense and had not been able to use the influence which the Labour Party had been able to exercise on behalf of the trade unions. They wanted to bring such pressure upon local politicians and upon the central Government that they would not ignore, and that was work they could do through their local societies. With regard to staffs, he said they had very few men at the Union and individual societies, and the few who were left seemed to be brought in under the operations of the new Man-Power Bill. They would have to begin another agitation against the Government, and he hoped this time they were prepared to put some "kick" into it. If they allowed the lackadaisical methods of the past to continue under the new conditions, then they were going to face the problems of entirely new and untrained staffs, which would probably mean demoralisation so far as the work of the societies was concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall we pass on?

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) : What will happen if we pass on? Proceeding, Mr. Blair said he wanted to move that the Parliamentary Committee be requested to approach the Government at once, with a view to exemptions being granted to all sectional secretaries of the Co-operative Union and the secretaries and managers of co-operative societies throughout the country, and that societies be asked to take up this request, at the same time, by resolutions passed by their members or committees and forwarded to the Prime Minister. That, to his mind, was the only way they could get some pressure brought to bear upon the Government.

Mr. MAY said he had no objection to the suggestion. For the information of the meeting, he might say he had the instructions of the Parliamentary Committee to call a special meeting, if necessary, immediately the full proposals of the Government were known, in order that they might take the promptest action. He could assure the Central Board that the Parliamentary Committee had not neglected anything in respect to this matter.

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON (Midland Section) suggested that they should ask for the same treatment for the managers and secretaries of their societies and their sectional secretaries as was meted out to the one-man businesses.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) seconded the resolution. He did not think they should interfere in any way with the Parliamentary Committee; they had done, and were doing, all that was possible to be done in connection with this matter; but he thought if they as a Central Board were to pass the resolution proposed by Mr. Blair it would strengthen the hands of the Parliamentary Committee. He was inclined to think that had the co-operative movement been organised politically they would have been able to bring forward pressure which might have implied votes to the Government.

Mr. M. H. CLEAR (Southern Section) : Would it not be as well to adjourn this matter until morning? Mr. May may then be able to throw some further light on the subject.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) suggested the resolution might include the words "pivot men." He thought they ought not to lie quiet; they ought at least to lend their voice and help to strengthen the backs of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The resolution was further amended to include the staff of the Union, as well as sectional secretaries, managers and secretaries, and pivot men of societies, and in that form was finally adopted.

Mrs. GASSON read an emergency resolution which she proposed to move the following morning.

SECTIONAL BOARD FEES.

The GENERAL SECRETARY submitted a resolution from the Southern Sectional Board to the effect that the rules of the Co-operative Union be so altered as to provide for increases in the fees payable to members of sectional boards for attendance at meetings from 2s. 6d. to 5s., 10s. to 15s., and 20s. to 25s.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) suggested that the matter be allowed to remain in abeyance until the recommendations of the Survey Committee were adopted. The Survey Committee had similar recommendations to make, with the exception of £1 instead of the £1. 5s.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) asked when would the report of the Survey Committee be presented, and even when it was presented they did not know that it would be accepted. The question was one of urgency now.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) wanted to know whether under the present rules the United Board had not or could not be empowered to make increased payments to members of the Central Board on the lines suggested, providing the United Board received instructions from the Central Board to do so?

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) said it was not the first time he had spoken on this subject; he raised it some years ago, and even the proposal now put forward was not a very big step in the right direction. At the present time they were still on the same basis as they were fifty years ago, notwithstanding the fact that, as was well known, a sovereign to-day was only equal to about 9s. 5d. Why should men on other co-operative boards get more than they did? He thought they on the Central Board were much too modest in connection with their work.

Mr. G. BASTARD (Midland Section) inquired whether the Southern Sectional Board, when and if prices went down, would come forward with a recommendation to reduce the payments to members of the Central Board.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) wanted to know whether it was possible to increase the fees of the Central Board, in accordance with the suggestion put forward by the Southern Sectional Board, by means of a war bonus. He was not in favour of revising the rule at present, because if they did alter it he was afraid nobody would be prepared to move that the fees be reduced again. If a war bonus be paid, as soon as the war was over they fall back to their old position, so far as fees were concerned.

It was finally decided that the resolution of the Southern Sectional Board should go forward to Congress as an amendment to the rules of the Union.

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONGRESS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported the resolutions which had been sent in for submission to Congress by societies on the following subjects:—(1) Permanent Executive of the Co-operative Union; (2) Co-operative Parliamentary Committee; (3) Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee; (4) Inquiry *re* Income Tax; (5) Purchasing Power, Education, and Religious Teaching; (6) and (7) Survey Committee's Report.

A division took place as to whether resolution 5 should go forward to Congress in its present form, and by 23 votes to 12 votes it was decided that it should be placed on the Congress agenda without any alteration. No vote was taken on any of the other resolutions.

SATURDAY MORNING SITTING.

The Central Board meeting was resumed at nine o'clock on the Saturday morning, Mr. Goodenough again presiding.

Before taking up the consideration of the Report of the Central Board, Mrs. GASSON (Southern Section) moved, and Mr. J. H. BATE (Southern Section) seconded, the following resolution dealing with the New Military Service Bill:—

That this meeting of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union Limited, having considered the provisions of the Military Service Bill, is of opinion that no decision should be taken by the Government that will interfere with the industries engaged in the production and distribution of food, these industries having already suffered depletion of workers to the utmost limit they can bear without serious danger of imperilling the supply of the essential necessities of life to the people.

The resolution was adopted and a copy ordered to be forwarded to the Government.

INTRODUCTORY.

On the introductory paragraph to the Report of the Central Board.

Mr. W. J. DOUSE (Midland Section), in view of this being the Jubilee Congress, did not consider the introduction to the report was strong enough.

This was supported by other speakers, who asked for stronger references to the work of the Union and the London Emergency Conference.

The GENERAL SECRETARY pointed out that it was the intention to issue a Year Book dealing with the fifty years' work of the Union.

A member suggested that a sentence to that effect might be inserted in the introduction.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section): I move that the introductory portion be withdrawn, recast, and made stronger, as has been suggested.

This was agreed to.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) said that some effort should be made so that every member of the Central Board could have the opportunity of discussing the redrafted introduction. Otherwise they might be in a similar position as the one they found themselves in that day. It was the Central Board's report to Congress, and the introduction should have the full consideration of every member equally with any other portion of the report. Each member of the Board should have a copy of the "recast" for consideration.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) said the introduction might be recast and submitted to the United Board at its meeting on the following Saturday.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section) expressed agreement with that, and it was decided that this course be adopted.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said they had not yet been able to obtain from the Board of Trade the information for that portion of the Report, but hoped to do so before the Report was issued to societies.

GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

The Report stated that the usual request had been sent to societies for particulars of their operations for the past year, but not many returns had been received, owing to shortage of office staffs and the many duties officials were now called upon to undertake.

Mr. J. H. BATE (Southern Section) did not think the wording of this portion of the Report was strong enough. They were making an apology for societies. They ought to use strong language to those societies that failed to make a return.

The GENERAL SECRETARY pointed out that all societies were not in the same fortunate position as Stratford. The great majority were suffering from greatly depleted staffs, and in some cases secretaries and chief officials had had to go.

WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) suggested that the word "expansion" in the first line of the report on the wholesale societies should be left out, and he noted that one year (1867) was represented as having consisted of 65 weeks. Was that a Co-operative Wholesale Society's year?

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) asked for the substitution of a better word than "tackling" in dealing with the milk problem.

MILITARY SERVICE BILL AGAIN.

Mr. H. J. MAY (Secretary, Parliamentary Committee) asked as a matter of emergency that he might revert to the resolution which had been passed dealing with the New Military Service Bill. He wanted to suggest that the terms of the resolution should be embodied in a telegram to Mr. G. N. Barnes and sent to the Cabinet before the Bill was passed.

This was agreed to, and the consideration of the Report proceeded with page by page.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section), referring to page 9, asked that a note might be added explaining any decreases.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section): Can anything be included about the taking over of the Planet Insurance Company by the Co-operative Wholesale Society?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: The transfer is not yet completed.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR : We were given to understand that the company was taken over on the first of the month.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) : There is nothing that it is more imperative to emphasise than insurance.

Mr. F. HAYWARD (North-Western Section) : But is it a fact that the proposals as submitted by the Planet Insurance have been accepted by the Co-operative Wholesale Society?

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) : It is true that amalgamation has taken place, and there may be a working basis arrived at, but permission may have to be obtained before the amalgamation can be said to be complete.

Mr. R. FLEMING (Irish Section) : It is true that amalgamation has been carried, but three months must elapse before effect can be given to it.

JOURNALS OF THE MOVEMENT.

Mr. F. HAYWARD (North-Western Section) : Has the donation to the *Co-operative News* been handed over? I have had a report of the Newspaper Society, but neither in the report nor in the cash account can I find any reference to it. If the grant has been made by the Union, surely some acknowledgment should have been made. It is very uncharitable to ignore the matter in this way.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Yes, the money has been handed over.

Mr. R. R. CHAPPELL (Western Section) : Does the A.U.C.E. *Journal* belong to the co-operative or the trade union movement?

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) : When we decided that the A.U.C.E. should no longer be invited to conferences, surely this ruling should be regarded in connection with their *Journal*.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) : Are we not savouring of the vindictive? There is more than trade union matter in the A.U.C.E. *Journal*. It is beneath us to suggest that the *Journal* be taken off the list of journals of the movement.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) : Is the Women's Institute a registered society?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Yes, it is registered under the Act.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) : Are all the new societies co-operative?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Yes. A full list of the societies, with all particulars, will be found in the Appendix.

THE GUILD GRANT.

Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South-Western Section) : Could anything further be added in regard to the Guild grant?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : The Guild has refused to accept the grant under present conditions.

Mr. RAMSAY : Could not that be put in?

RECONSTRUCTION.

Mr. E. KING (Southern Section): Could not anything be added with regard to the Reconstruction Committee? Can we not know the decision come to?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: A number of questions were put, and we foreshadowed what we had in mind when the Labour Adviser was appointed and were told we were in advance of the Government Reconstruction Committee.

Mr. KING suggested that something to that effect should be inserted in the Report.

CO-OPERATION IN LONDON.

A discussion took place with regard to the proposed grant of £1,000 to the Southern Section for propaganda work in London.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) thought the grant was not fair, and that such centres as Leeds, Bradford, and Liverpool were entitled to similar consideration.

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section) agreed with Mr. Blair. Some years back money was granted to London for the spread of co-operation, and the scheme was a failure.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) said the comparison was not fair. The migratory population of London alone, by which societies lost 30 to 40 per cent of their members, justified all the help that could be given to London. Then there were huge areas not yet touched by co-operation, and he expressed his gratitude to the United Board for the help. The money was not to be used till the war was over.

Mr. G. MAJOR (North-Western Section) agreed that money should be spent on education in this way.

Mr. R. FLEMING (Irish Section) said the money was granted because London was specific in character, and societies there to-day were rising to their responsibilities.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) was convinced that the present scheme was workable and would do good. If other sections put forward similar claims they would be considered. London had made out an excellent case.

The recommendation was agreed to.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The Board's report and recommendations, together with the Parliamentary Committee's report and resolutions to Congress, were taken together.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) asked how far it was in the hands of the Central Board to deal with the Parliamentary Committee's work. They had heard so much that this committee was only responsible to Congress, they wanted to know where they stood in the matter.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) thought it was within the province

of the Central Board to make any suggestions, to raise any questions, and to debate any point.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said this committee was created by Congress, and they could not, therefore, amend the report, but could make suggestions to the committee.

EXCESS PROFITS.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) moved—

That this Congress reaffirms its previous resolutions as to the injustice of the application of the excess profits duty to the ordinary operations of co-operative societies. It expresses its profound dissatisfaction with the present position of this question and the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards it, and urges upon the Parliamentary Committee the necessity of continuing their efforts to obtain relief for the movement from the unfair burden of this duty.

Mr. Watkins said he was dissatisfied with the attitude taken up by the Parliamentary Committee, and wanted to urge that societies should be given relief from the unfair burden of the excess profits tax. He was a member of the deputation which waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regard to this matter, but for reasons which he could never understand the interview was stated to be private, and no report of the meeting was presented to the movement. He was profoundly dissatisfied with the uncompromising attitude of the Chancellor. They must pursue the matter on principle and get the tax removed. They all knew what was looming ahead. Interests were never busier, and Ministries were all in opposition to the movement.

Several members rose to a point of order as to whether the resolution could be allowed.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) contended that the Board could recommend, and, on the Chairman declaring that there was no objection to the resolution, Mr. Millington seconded, stating that they ought to have taken stronger action sooner.

Mr. H. J. MAY (Secretary, Parliamentary Committee) said he had never yet heard, and he had been connected with the committee ever since its formation, he had never yet heard it said that that Board had not the power and the right to criticise matters brought before it, and that such matters could not be altered. The position had grown up in this way. Within the last two or three years they had taken that Report when they were at Congress, and it was not reasonable or practicable to say they could alter the decisions of the Parliamentary Committee then. The only difficulty in the way was the lack of the opportunity for the Parliamentary Committee to consider the suggestions which the Central Board might make. If the Board wanted to make suggestions they could make them now, and they could come before the special meeting of the Parliamentary Committee. There seemed to be

an impression abroad of sharp divisions which do not exist. He thought Mr. Watkins was labouring under a misapprehension.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) : We have to stand up for principle, and not be satisfied until that principle is recognised.

The resolution was adopted.

REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES.

The Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South-Western Section) congratulated the Board on what had been accomplished in securing co-operative representation on Government committees. But he thought they should receive some information of the work that was being done by that long list of representatives. They had been a long time in getting representation, but now they had been successful it was only natural that they should ask for some information as to what those representatives had accomplished.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) agreed that the movement should have as much knowledge as possible of the work done by those sub-committees. They felt that the importance of the work was not recognised as it should be, because they had not been able to give the publicity to the work that they desired. They had discussed the publication of a fortnightly periodical giving this information, but they were faced with the paper restrictions. Then they thought of a column or two in the *Co-operative News*, but the *News* was faced with the same difficulty. The *News* had done all they possibly could. He knew the difficulties they were in, and they could not see how proper publicity could be given to the work. Their representatives were safeguarding, as far as possible, the interests of the movement, and in regard to publicity they would have to content themselves with what amount was possible under the circumstances.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) asked whether all the names were included in that list or not. He understood that Mr. Johns, a director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, had been appointed on an important committee like the Tea Committee. If that were so, his name should surely appear on that list.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) suggested that it would be valuable if the representatives on the various committees could meet and consult one with another. Was that being done?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Yes.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) advocated increased representation on national and local committees. Notwithstanding that some of them had taken a leading part in securing representation on local food committees, it was important, in view of the national rationing scheme, that the scope of such representation should be increased and widened. They claimed that they were representing ten million co-operators registered for sugar. Out of 23,000 representatives, about 500 were co-operative representatives, despite the fact that co-operators were supplying food to not less than one-quarter of the population. They ought to strengthen the hands of that committee and make

a strong claim for more adequate representation on national and local committees. They had the interests of the consumers of the country at heart. Co-operative representatives were still in a large minority. They should make every effort to get their proper share of representation.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) suggested that the work these representatives were doing should be published in the public Press and paid for as advertisements. They might also subsidise the *Co-operative News* and put in items of information. He thought it would pay them in the interests of the movement.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) asked whether they were quite sure as to the value of this representation. He was not. He thought it was far more feasible to recommend the Parliamentary Committee and the Wholesale Society to withdraw all their men and set to work themselves for the better distribution of food, and, if necessary, to break the law, then go to gaol for it. Personally, he could enjoy six months' rest. The present representation was only a dope.

FOOD SHORTAGE.

Mr. G. MAJOR (North-Western Section) referred to the serious shortage of food supplies, and said that, acting on their experiences of trading at the stores, members were registering elsewhere. Members had naturally thought that if they registered with their co-operative society they would be in the same position as they were in the previous months. No matter what the co-operative societies had done, if they registered members he was of opinion that they would get the same supplies as elsewhere. In South Yorkshire, however, they had failed to convince the members that that was a fact. It was safe to say they had not three-quarters of the members registered with them. The progress and turnover of the movement were being seriously interfered with as a result. So far as bacon was concerned, which was becoming a rationed article, the Parliamentary Committee should insist that co-operators got their proper supplies, and when the members discovered their mistake and were desirous of changing their registration from a private trader to a co-operative society the Parliamentary Committee should insist upon the Government allowing this privilege. If that were not done the progress of the movement would be seriously retarded and interfered with. There was very little prospect that local food committees would allow a change of registration. It was very important to the movement that they should demand that the Government should allow perfect freedom of registration to people in any district to go back to the co-operative movement for registered articles if they liked.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) said there were two sides to the shield. What had been suggested might act upon societies in exactly the opposite way to that anticipated. It might make registration too easy. At Erith a proposal had been made by the local Food Committee, on which the society was represented, to transfer a thousand members to local butchers for

their meat supplies. If they made it too easy for anyone to change his registration it might operate against the societies. There were other difficulties. What should be done was to get at all their members with the strongest appeal possible to register with their own societies at the beginning.

Mr. P. LONEY (Scottish Section) said that when the local Food Committees were set up they, as co-operators, were ignored.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) suggested that a better solution for societies was to give adherence to the terms of the rationing scheme adopted by the Parliamentary Committee, sent to Lord Rhondda, and furnished to every retail society. One of the essentials was that there should be an entirely new registration of customers. If they got rid of the datum period they would get rid of 75 per cent of the trouble. Let them press for a new registration of customers, so that they could register where they liked, and so that there would be no advantage as between one place and another, or one shop against another.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) moved—

That we demand larger representation on these committees than we have previously had, and that we press for adequate representation on advisory committees.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) seconded. He said they had had experience. All the vested interests were strongly represented on those committees. They had had a great fight in Glasgow with the Live Stock Commission, and had succeeded here and there. The Commission had more power than any other Food Committee in existence. There was now more need than ever that they should pay more attention to the question of local food control. The question of representation all came back to the fact that the co-operators had no direct representation in the House of Commons. As long as they were content to be like dumb cattle they would be sat upon.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) said he was a member of the deputation which recently waited upon Lord Rhondda, appointed by the Consumers' Council, which was composed of co-operators, trade-unionists, and other working-class bodies. Each put the case from their respective stand-points, and Lord Rhondda's position was that the last time he issued a circular on the subject of food distribution mentioning co-operation he incurred so much odium that he did not desire to issue another circular; but in all cases where there was a decision expressed in the locality they in the Ministry would take serious note of it. Proceeding, Mr. Watkins said co-operators would have to kick up a thundering row. If they did not the authorities would take no notice of them. If they kicked up a row then the matter would be looked into.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) thought they ought to get full information about those committees which had turned down co-operative representation.

The resolution was then put and carried.

CENTRAL PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE.

The Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South-Western Section), referring to the Prestwich Election, asked how the money was raised and what had been paid out?

Mr. H. J. MAY said nothing had been demanded from the Central Parliamentary Representation Fund in respect to the Prestwich Election.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said they had to find the money for the Returning Officer's fees, but some of it had been refunded. The matters could not be settled yet. Some societies had given guarantees which had not yet been carried out. The total amount of the Parliamentary Representation Fund up to 15th March was £4,688. That amount did not include the £1,000 granted by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which had not yet been handed over.

Mr. H. J. MAY said the Central Representation Committee did not know of a penny piece having been paid for the Prestwich election. It came as a revelation to him, because the Central Representation Committee had not made any recommendation for a single penny to be paid over.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) asked about the final selection of the candidates. Time was going on. When could they have the final selection?

Mr. MAY said he could say more after next Tuesday.

Mrs. GASSON, continuing, said there was a feeling in the South that the committee had been too slow; they were wondering how it was going to justify itself at the Liverpool Congress, in view of the work it was supposed to have done. She would not say it had not done the work.

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON (Midland Section) asked if proportional representation was delaying the matter, to which

Mr. MAY replied "No"; proportional representation strengthens our chances at elections.

Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South-Western Section): Will the statement of accounts be included in the accounts of the Union?

Mr. WHITEHEAD: Yes.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) could not harmonise Mr. May's statement in the last paragraph on page 9. The fact that the Central Parliamentary Committee consented that Mr. May should contest the Prestwich election, and to the contest being officially supported, meant that they would find the means.

Mr. MAY said this was playing with words. The paragraph meant that the principle of election be agreed to. That was not the point now. The question was asked with regard to the amount of expenses.

THE DATUM PERIOD.

Mr. MAY, referring to the Central Parliamentary Committee's resolution on the "datum period," calling for its immediate abolition, said he wished to be allowed to add the words—

And, further, it demands that the control or rationing of any article of food shall be immediately accompanied by the registration of customers with retailers and the registration of wholesalers, in order that the available supplies may be more equitably distributed.

He said that up to now control and rationing had not been accompanied by registration of customers, and duplication of supplies had not been checked. The "datum period" afforded the means whereby the interests could protect themselves. The position in regard to tea had grown very acute. In their report the committee pointed out that they had received verbal assurances that the "datum" system would shortly disappear, but when those promises were reduced to writing they were qualified in ways which bore eloquent testimony to the cleverness of the expert advisers of the Ministry. They said profits would have to remain where they were. Thousands of pounds more tea could come into the co-operative movement on condition that the profits remained where they were. ("No., no.") They might say "No," but they were only a small section of the community, and they would have to be moved before this thing could be altered. He did not want to be egotistical, but the majority did not realise that this kind of thing was going on. The resolution, with the proposed amendment, really got at the root of the whole matter.

The resolution was then adopted as follows :—

That this Congress strongly protests against the continuance of the "datum period" in the schemes of foodstuffs adopted by the Ministry of Food; it declares that such a basis of distribution in the present crisis is contrary to the interests of the consumers, and calls for its immediate abolition; and, further, it demands that the control or rationing of any article of food shall be immediately accompanied by the registration of customers with retailers and the registration of wholesalers, in order that the available supplies may be equitably distributed.

THE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAMME.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) said he wished to propose a resolution that the Central Board recommend the Liverpool Congress to revise the Parliamentary Programme and Policy with the object of making it more definite, and also making the adoption of such programme and policy obligatory upon every co-operative candidate seeking election to Parliament, and requiring them to include such policy as part of their election addresses. In the recent election, Mr. Johnston proceeded, there was no reference whatever to the policy of the co-operative movement. He meant in the candidate's address. Whether that was done intentionally or not, or it was thought that it was not desirable to put the aims of the co-operative movement too strongly, he did not know. But there was no part of the co-operative policy outlined in the address, and there were only two incidental references to the movement.

People in the ward did not really know that the co-operators were running a candidate.

Mr. MAY said the whole of the points in the programme were given on a separate circular and distributed to every householder in the constituency.

A member of the Board asked whether a resolution of that kind could be sprung upon the meeting? The North-Western Sectional Board did not accept it.

The CHAIRMAN : I am informed that it is in order to bring it forward.

Mr. JOHNSTON, proceeding, said there should be some definite statement on the part of co-operative candidates as to what the Co-operative Parliamentary Programme meant. Surely they were not ashamed of their principles.

A point of order having been raised,

Mr. JOHNSTON said they had a perfect right to suggest any alteration to the Congress.

The CHAIRMAN said he quite agreed they were handicapped, so far as the resolution was concerned. A copy ought to be in the hands of every member of the Board, and it was difficult to discuss it otherwise.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section) : Can any member of the Board spring a motion on this meeting?

The CHAIRMAN then asked the General Secretary to read the rule bearing on the matter.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) : Is it fair to allow a member to raise a question haphazard and let it take precedence over other matters?

Mr. WHITEHEAD having read the rule, which provided for notice of motion being given,

Mr. JOHNSTON said as that was a special meeting he took it that the rule would not apply. Anyway, he would give notice that he would bring the matter forward at the meeting a fortnight hence.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) moved—"That the matter be deferred and brought forward at the next meeting of the Central Board." This was agreed to.

The report of the Parliamentary Committee was then adopted.

CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

Under the scheme of organisation and in order to place the Central Parliamentary Committee on a more satisfactory basis, the Central Board made the following recommendation :—

That there be constituted a Central Co-operative Political Committee, whose objects shall be to secure direct co-operative representation in Parliament and on local and other administrative bodies in strict accordance with the decision of the Swansea Congress, and such amendments of this decision as may be made at subsequent Congresses; and to undertake, in furtherance of these objects, such propaganda or other work, either alone or in co-operation with other committees or organisations, as may be deemed desirable.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said at the Office Committee meeting on the previous night the question was raised as to the advisability of calling the committee a "National" rather than a "Central" committee.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) said that in too many people's minds the word "political" had something to do with national or party politics. He thought it was advisable to retain the word "representation."

The substitution of the word "national" was agreed to.

It was also suggested that the Central Parliamentary Committee be a committee of the Co-operative Union, responsible to the Central Board of the Union and through it the Congress, and that the committee consist of—

Nine members of the Central Board, appointed by the Central Board on a sectional basis (two members from the North-Western Section and one member from each other section).

Nine members representing and elected by societies contributing to the Co-operative Political Fund. These members shall be elected on a sectional basis (two members from the North-Western Section and one member from each other section), and be elected by the contributing societies in the section they represent).

One member representing and appointed by the Central Education Committee or such other committee as may be the committee of the Central Board entrusted with the educational work of the Union.

Two members representing and appointed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

One member representing and appointed by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Two members representing and appointed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Congress.

One member representing and appointed by the Women's Co-operative Guild (England and Wales).

One member representing and appointed by the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild.

One member representing and appointed by the National Co-operative Men's Guild.

The constitution, functions, finance, and the starting of a Political Department of the Union were all agreed to, but under the constitution of Sectional Councils it was agreed to leave out the suggested two representatives of the Sectional Educational Associations and the representative of the Men's Guilds.

In the discussion, Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section) noticed that the whole of the work was thrown into the hands of the Central Board, and this, in her opinion, was not satisfactory, seeing that part of the work was to advise in local propaganda. She thought there ought to be more direct representation.

It was pointed out that societies contributing to the central fund would have the right to elect representatives.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) thought the Central Board should be empowered to add to the constitution the sectional secretary of each section. He was referring to the whole of the sections. They needed close co-ordination of the sectional secretaries for propaganda and social work generally. Every sectional secretary should be in touch with this national body, more especially in regard to its annual meetings, so that they could answer questions and give guidance to societies. He thought sectional secretaries should be added to the constitution.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : That is the next item I was going to bring forward. The Office Committee thought it would not do to burden this committee by appointing secretaries, but that the Sectional Boards should have authority to say that these secretaries could attend but not vote. The Office Committee agreed to that.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) said he supposed they would have the right to oppose this matter at Congress if they desired to do so.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) said that when any member spoke on behalf of his own society he disassociated himself from membership of the Central Board.

Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section), referring to the proposed permanent executive, pointed out that the members would be taken from the suggested nine who were to form the committee, which was unsatisfactory.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) thought Mrs. Found's question quite sound. When the executive committee was appointed not a single one of them might be a member of the National Parliamentary Committee. A word should be included to provide that when such an executive is appointed they shall be the representatives of the Central Board upon the committee.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) thought this was introducing another matter in a subtle way, and

Mr. E. KING (Southern Section) suggested deleting the last four lines of the report as follows :—"And if, and when, a permanent executive committee is appointed for the Co-operative Union, the constitution of the Political Committee shall be so amended that the executive of the Co-operative Union shall be the executive committee of the Central Co-operative Political Committee."

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) thought this would be unwise. It was extremely unlikely for some time that this permanent executive would come into existence. When it did it should be a permanent executive and Parliamentary representation would come under its purview as other things would. He thought they would be stultifying themselves if they deleted the lines as suggested.

There voted for deletion, 15; against, 25.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section), speaking on the functions of the committee, said he noticed one clause said to "approve or disapprove the Parliamentary candidates." He suggested this should be to "approve or otherwise."

It was agreed to allow the clause to remain as drafted.

Mr. BLAIR, on finance, asked why the expenses should be borne by the Co-operative Union and not by the political fund? There was no necessity at present for increasing the funds of the Union, but if that sort of thing continued they would have to increase subscriptions by a farthing per member.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section), speaking on the Sectional Councils, moved—"That the two representatives of the Sectional Educational Associations, whom it was proposed to withdraw from representation on the Sectional Councils, remain." It would be a big mistake to withdraw them. They were very energetic bodies.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section) pointed out that they had none of these associations in Scotland. The district associations carried out the work.

In favour of withdrawing the representation, 20; against, 15.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section), speaking on clause (e), providing for one representative of the men's guild branches, said they would have double representatives in that case. They would be making faggot voters.

For the deletion of clause (e) there voted 25; against, 6.

It was agreed that clause (d), giving representation to the Women's Guild, should remain.

The report was accepted.

TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

Mr. W. J. DOUSE (Midland Section), under this heading in the report, said his society at Nottingham had a case to bring before the Congress. They had two sets of clerks in the grocery department and in the office. Some were in the Clerks' Union and some in the A.U.C.E.. The latter asked for a larger bonus, which was contingent on sick pay, and this was granted. The Clerks' Union came along and asked for sick pay where a clerk had been away a year or so. They had no right to give greater rights to the Clerks' Union than to the other one. The Clerks' Union had got their answer in the Courts. The case had been decided, and he wanted to know whether it was generally understood that sick pay could be claimed by clerks or any person employed on fixed wages. They had never heard of that before and had now learnt of it for the first time.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the matter was quite in order and the remedy lay in the hands of the Nottingham Society. They could put an end to service and make any agreement they liked with the employee. If the clerk or any other employee was engaged on certain conditions those conditions must be carried out.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) said that in the absence of an agreement then custom must prevail.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: That is so.

THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

Mr. T. WAY (North-Western Section) said the report of the committee referred to the boycott of an individual. Were there any powers invested in the committee to deal with the commercial boycott? There was every evidence in local societies and the Wholesale Societies that the boycott was by no means dead. He suggested that the committee take into consideration the statements being made from time to time concerning the boycott of the co-operative movement throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The report was agreed to.

SURVEY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said it might be necessary to move alterations to this report at Congress. They had had great difficulty in getting information from the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Whether this was due to the amount of work on hand or a disinclination to impart the information he could not say, but it was to be regretted that they had not seen their way to give the information needed to complete the report.

Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section) thought it was a mistake to alienate the sympathy of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. They should be retained as members of the Propagandist Committee.

Mr. W. R. RAE asked whether there had not been a tacit understanding between the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Union? Had the Co-operative Wholesale Society not agreed that propaganda was no part of their work? Would it not be foolish then to ask them to take part in that work?

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON (Midland Section) said the Co-operative Wholesale Society had contributed largely to the work of the Propaganda Committee in the past, and

Mr. MILLINGTON said if they continued to pay they would expect representation.

Mr. F. HAYWARD (North-Western Section) referred to what the Co-operative Wholesale Society had done in helping to establish, capitalise, and supervise new societies under the Joint Propaganda Committee. If they knocked out that part of the scheme they were going to do an injury to future propaganda work. Many societies had to be formed in the country, and the influence of the Co-operative Wholesale Society as a trading organisation upon the fortunes of new societies was not to be disregarded. There were financial support and practical assistance and direction which could not be given by the Union, which was mainly a propagandist institution. He agreed with the remarks of Mrs. Found.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) said a deputation from the South had waited upon the Co-operative Wholesale Society Board that week with regard to the carrying on of special propaganda work in London, and they had agreed to assist the work financially. They might not in future be able to go to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for similar help if they were not

represented on this committee. Trade could not be ignored, and the Co-operative Wholesale Society representatives should be allowed to remain.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) said there were strong arguments why the Union should take the propaganda work in hand itself. Had propaganda work been wholly in the hands of the Union the grant referred to would have been made long ago. He (the speaker) had had much experience of propaganda committee work, and he said that after full consideration of the whole matter he was convinced that the propaganda work of the movement will advance more quickly if it is under the control and in the hands of the Union itself. Efficiency and good work must be the first consideration. Those should be the dominating factors in coming to a conclusion on matters of that kind. Funds were bound to come if we have the energy and enthusiasm for our work. Proceeding, Mr. Gregory said he wanted to ask how it was possible, if they were to make it an extensive scheme, how was it possible for the Co-operative Wholesale Society to bring effective working representatives on that committee? The Co-operative Wholesale Society had agreed that work of this kind was essentially the work of the Union, and was not a matter of feeling; it was a question of consolidating their work in the direction of efficient propaganda.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said the Survey Committee would not stand in the way of the adoption by Congress of a scheme which was more generous. They were legislating for all time.

The constitution as submitted was agreed to.

AUXILIARY BODIES.

Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section) submitted that even supposing the Central Board to take control, the manner in which representation was proposed was out of all proportion and reason. They were asking a great deal too much. It would be possible for the Central Board to send a larger number than the auxiliary bodies themselves. The proposed measure of control was out of all proportion. They had recently made a grant to the Newspaper Society, but they did not seek representation there.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) said the idea was to obtain better co-ordination between the different bodies than now existed. There was no desire and no suggestion that the Central Board should dominate those bodies. There should be contact like there was between the District Associations and the Sectional Boards. There was no desire to dominate. It was simply that the Central Board should be in actual contact with those bodies without any idea at all of domination.

The CHAIRMAN said the objection seemed to be against the extent of representation, and not against representation.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) said there was much in Mrs. Found's contention, that the proposals meant a dominating influence.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) said there was no intention of domination. It was co-ordination. They had reached an *impasse* in the

movement and they were finding conflicting elements. It was necessary to link up the various organisations and formulate one general policy and thus strengthen the movement and make it more efficient. It might be necessary to vary the proportion of representation, but if they could not trust themselves to take upon themselves this authority and use it rightly and justly the sooner they could the better.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section) said he could not consider it domination for Congress to be supreme. It was supreme over all bodies, and those bodies that did not submit to Congress should be put outside the pale.

The report was then adopted.

CO-OPERATIVE CAPITAL.

Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section) said that on page 87 there was a suggestion that rates of interest be according to purchases. She thought this should be abolished.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) said they must take all the capital they could get. Restrictions must be removed and increased rates of interest given.

Mr. J. POLLITT said Mrs. Found's idea was erroneous. They would not be robbing the poor people of what they ought to have by applying this suggestion. Capital must come from somewhere, and if not got in the way suggested it would have to be borrowed, for which higher rates of interest would have to be paid.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) quite agreed with the proposal, and thought that the appeal for capital could not be made too strong. Reserve funds must also be increased and credit banks should be established.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) said there was something stronger with regard to reserve funds on page 88.

Mr. T. WAY (North-Western Section) : I thought we decided to use the word "surplus" instead of "profit."

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) : The average member does not understand surplus. Better keep to profit.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) : About this Mail Order Business, Mr. Chairman. Will there not be overlapping and friction if such trading is countenanced? Might not such mailed goods be covered by another society? The matter needs serious consideration.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) said millions of trade were being done by this means, and the question was : Should we go with the times and capture the trade we are now losing?

CO-OPERATION AND THE POOR.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) pointed out that on page 99 there was reference to co-operation and the poor. By whom would the capital be

provided for the establishment of these societies. Was it the idea to ask the Co-operative Wholesale Society to help, or societies?

Mr. RAE: In this case the Manchester societies.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section), going back to the paragraphs on capital, thought they ought to urge more strongly the use of collective profits.

Mr. RAE: Yes, and collective spending.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PRESS.

Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section) said that, failing any agreement between the *Scottish Co-operator* and the Newspaper Society, she hoped it was not the intention of the Union to run a newspaper.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section): There is some misunderstanding. In the event of the two societies failing to come to any agreement it was suggested that a National Publishing Society be established on independent lines. Any newspaper that was started must have freedom and be independent of any organisation.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section): Could we have the reason why the two societies—*Scottish Co-operator* and the *News*—failed to come to any agreement?

Mr. RAE: Just the same reason prevented the *Co-operator* coming to an agreement as the *News* in England.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section): This is not quite correct. There is a difference. The Newspaper Society was prepared to sink its identity and go in for amalgamation, but the Scottish people wanted to maintain Scottish identity of nationality so far as their newspaper was concerned. The Newspaper Society had consulted the *Scottish Co-operator* committee, together with the Survey Committee, when the idea was suggested to start the National Publishing Society. So far as the Newspaper Society was concerned, they were prepared to carry out the Survey Committee's ideas.

Mr. W. SWINDLEHURST (North-Western Section) said that their press must have a free hand to criticise. If run by any central organisation, and the paper became in any way official, it would be detrimental to the movement.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) asked if it was not under consideration as to whether the capital provided for the Newspaper Society should not be *pro rata* to membership, instead of as at present?

Mr. W. R. RAE: If Mr. Swindlehurst had read the Survey Committee's report he would have seen that it is suggested that any newspaper started should be independent.

The report was agreed to.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Discussion on the Central Board's Report to Congress was resumed after lunch. Mr. Goodenough again presiding.

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section) said he had just had a telephone message stating that the "Zepps" visited —— last night and that ten or twelve people had been killed. Was it not possible to send a telegram of sympathy to the —— Corporation and the co-operative society?

The suggestion was agreed to.

HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS.

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section), dealing with Hours and Wages Boards, said these had now been in existence for two years and could not be said to be working with complete unanimity. Societies were allowing the opinions of the Board to be passed by, and the A.U.C.E. were declining to submit their cases to the Boards. As a member of the Lancashire Conciliation Board, he had often felt that they were driving towards a dead wall. Owing to the composition of the Boards, further progress was impossible. Although there were four representatives of the A.U.C.E. and four Union representatives on the Board, immediately a division took place there was a complete deadlock. Machinery should be created whereby an independent chairman could be elected for the District Conciliation Boards. That would do away with the National Board. He felt that the expense accruing to this form of settlement was such as to warrant the appointment of an independent chairman. He did not necessarily mean a man sent down from the Board of Trade, but one mutually adopted by each side. The machinery ought to be amended to include an independent chairman of the Conciliation Boards. Parties often negotiating before the Wages Boards were the very parties who acted as conciliators. There should be one joint chairman on the Wages and Hours Boards. No one advocating his own side of the case should be allowed to act as conciliator. It was an impossible position. They ought to have a substitute to replace those men who occupy these onerous positions. The Central Board ought to ask the United Board to prepare machinery to do away with this anomalous position.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) supported the recommendation that the United Board should go into the whole question of the constitution of the Conciliation Boards.

Mr. MILLERCHIP asked whether, in view of the fact that these boards had only recently been formed, it was wise to alter the constitution till they saw how the present machinery worked.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) agreed that something should be done to secure justice on each side.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) said there would be a feeling of resentment at any attempt to interfere with the internal affairs of a trade union.

Those members who were members of a particular trade union would be biased in favour of that union. The other side was biased in the same way. The suggestion of a neutral chairman was a good thing. It would secure unbiased judgment. Co-operators had lost a good deal in not having their case properly prepared as compared with the A.U.C.E. They should be far better prepared before they went to conciliation. For them to interfere with the internal working of any trade union would meet with resentment to the very end.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) contended that Conciliation Boards should consist of individuals who had not been concerned in the case up to that point. That was the crux of the whole matter. It was absurd to try to interfere with the internal arrangements of the A.U.C.E.

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section) said as an old trade-unionist he brought this matter forward in the interests of trade-unionism. They would be wanting in judgment if they attempted to interfere with the internal arrangements of any trade union. His object was to make the position so that matters could be adjudicated upon by impartial people.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the question of an independent chairman had been discussed. They found a difficulty in arriving at a unanimous decision. Anyone suggested was wrong for one side or the other. One or two individuals had been suggested. Some thought men like the Lord Mayor of Manchester or the Town Clerk ought to be asked to adjudicate.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) said what wisdom and experience there was in the trade union and co-operative movements as a whole should be helpful and valuable. They should get into touch with the Advisory Council of Trade-unionists and Co-operators.

Mr. G. BEDFORD (Northern Section) said that they in the North of England were losing faith in the Conciliation Boards. He instanced a case where the individual representing the men's side was at every meeting, even to the matter going up to the National Board. Some alteration was needed. No man who sat on the Hours and Wages Board could adjudicate properly on a Conciliation Board. So far as his own district was concerned, some drastic action would have to be taken.

It was agreed that the whole matter be referred for consideration to the United Board.

By this time many members of the Board had left the room to catch their respective trains to distant places. Before the Chairman closed the proceedings,

Mrs. M. A. GASSON said she was dissatisfied with the time devoted to the consideration of that Report. It was of such immense importance, and the members of the Central Board were responsible for it. They ought to devote at least three days to the consideration of the report.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) remarked that many members of the

Board had left the room. If they did not go, then they would not get home until the following day. Yet if everybody did the same there would not have been any meeting. They ought to stay until the meeting was finished.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) said the time devoted to the report was quite inadequate to discuss the important matters it contained. Not half the members of the Board were present, and they were discussing matters of the utmost importance. It was not creditable to the Board, nor conducive to the well-being of the movement.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) said if there were less verbiage at the commencement of the meeting and more concentration on the vital points, then they would get through all right.

The proceedings then concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.





PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, 18th MAY, 1918.

The members of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union met on Saturday, 18th May, to consider business likely to come before the Congress. The meeting was held in the Civil Court Room in St. George's Hall. Mr. G. Goodenough (North-Western Section) presided, and the following members were present :—

IRISH SECTION.

Messrs. R. Fleming, W. J. McGuffin, and J. Palmer; also Mr. W. M. Knox (secretary).

MIDLAND SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bastard, J. Butcher, W. J. Douse, G. Harris, J. Langley, W. Millerchip, J. Millington, C. A. W. Saxton, and J. G. Shacklock.

NORTHERN SECTION.

Messrs. J. C. Aiston, G. Bedford, J. Davison, S. Galbraith, M.P., and W. R. Rae; also A. Stoddart (secretary).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. R. Blair, E. Booth, J. R. Cunliffe, W. Dewhurst, S. Fairbrother, S. R. Foster, G. Goodenough, J. Greenwood, W. Gregory, F. Hayward, A. Horricks, J. Johnston, G. Major, T. Redfearn, W. Swindlehurst, J. Thompson, T. Way, and B. Woolfenden.

SCOTTISH SECTION.

Messrs. J. Allan, G. Bisset, J. Lucas, N. McLean, J. Patterson, A. Purdie, and G. Wilson.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Mrs. M. A. Gasson, Messrs. J. H. Bate, W. T. Charter, M. H. Clear, S. Foulger, A. Hainsworth, E. King, R. Rowsell, and W. J. Salmon; also E. O. Greening, A. W. Golightly, and H. J. May (hon. members), and B. Williams (secretary).

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Mrs. Found, Messrs. W. Brown, J. T. Davis, and W. H. Watkins.

WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. Bryant, R. R. Chappell, J. P. Davies, D. Evans, H. Watkins, and D. Williams; also E. R. Wood (hon. member).
Also the General and Assistant Secretaries, and T. Wood (auditor).

The CHAIRMAN: The first business on the agenda is the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 13th April. These have been circulated. Are they a correct record of what took place? "Agreed."

Since we last met Mr. C. J. Beckett, an honorary member of the Central Board, and Mr. S. Butler, an active member of the Central Board, have "passed on." I would ask you to stand in your places as a token of respect.

The members reverently paid their tribute to the memory of their departed colleagues in the manner suggested by the Chairman.

The next item on the agenda was the election of two tellers, and without any discussion Mr. R. Rowsell (Southern Section) and Mr. J. C. Aiston (Northern Section) were elected.

MIDLAND SECTIONAL SECRETARY.

The GENERAL SECRETARY intimated that the United Board had unanimously elected Mr. C. A. W. Saxton (Worcester) to be permanent secretary of the Midland Section, and that Mr. Saxton would commence his duties in the first week of June.

Mr. SAXTON thanked the members of the United Board, and promised to do his best, as he had always done.

THE LABOUR ADVISER.

The GENERAL SECRETARY recalled that the question of the Labour Adviser's appointment had been deferred till that meeting, as it was thought more would be known about the effect of the Man-Power Bill, and whether the Union staff would be affected by it. Mr. May had been making special inquiries, and had asked that the Union should be regarded as a National Union. Mr. May might give some information on the matter.

Mr. H. J. MAY (hon. member, Southern Section) said he was afraid he could not give information definitely; but, so far as the staff of the Union was concerned, the representations made were being dealt with satisfactorily. He had an interview with an official of the Ministry; the names of all members of the staff who were employed in an administrative capacity, and

who were of military age, were sent in. In order to get something definite in writing he had pressed for a reply, and had received a note stating that the matter was having attention and that a further letter would be sent. The authorities he had consulted had all said that conditions which applied to trade union officials should also apply to the officials of the Union. The man at Manchester who acted as the warehouseman did not come into the arrangement, because he was not acting in an administrative capacity; but the rest had been accepted in that category.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said it looked as if there would be no difficulty about the Labour Adviser, and Mr. Pollitt commencing his duties would have no effect upon the present members of the staff—and that was what they had been afraid of. All that they wanted was to safeguard the interests of the Union, so that its work would be carried on. They were anxiously waiting to get Mr. Pollitt to work. During the past week they had had two cases remitted to the National Conciliation Board. Had Mr. Pollitt been in office he would have been able to prepare information for the Conciliation Board equal to that prepared by the opposite side, who always came with the cases prepared as to the finest details. They at the Union were anxious to get Mr. Pollitt to work, if the staff were not to be interfered with.

Mr. A. Purdie (Scottish Section) thought that this matter had been too long delayed, and he moved that Mr. Pollitt be started at the earliest possible moment. They had heard from Mr. May that it would not interfere with the office staff. He held out for Mr. Pollitt's appointment a year ago, and he knew that there would have been different views taken if Mr. Pollitt had been at work.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) seconded the proposal. It had never entered into his conception that the staff had anything to do with the delay in Mr. Pollitt taking up his appointment.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) said it was no credit to the Union that the matter had been delayed so long. Mr. Pollitt should have been at work six months ago, and he moved that Mr. Pollitt's appointment date from 1st June.

Mr. G. MAJOR (North-Western Section) approved of Mr. Redfearn's proposal, but disagreed with his protest. The staff got the wind up twelve months ago, and it was cheering to find that they had now got the wind down. It was not due to the action of the Central Board that the appointment did not take place—they ought to point out that it was the result of the action of the staff.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section): I move that the question be now put.

This was agreed to, and Mr. Purdie's motion was carried.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) suggested that some financial compensation should be made to Mr. Pollitt in order to make up for any loss he may have sustained owing to the long delay in commencing duty.

The question was discussed and the suggestion negatived, the voting

being :—For the previous question, 34; against, 14. It was therefore ruled that Mr. Pollitt's salary should date from the time he took up his appointment.

SECTIONAL ELECTIONS.

With reference to the Sectional Boards, the GENERAL SECRETARY explained that Mr. S. Butler, of Long Eaton, had died since his election to the Midland Board. The Midland Board had met that morning, and have agreed to recommend that Mr. W. Warren, the highest unsuccessful candidate, should be held to be elected. He wished to know if it was the will of the Central Board that Mr. Warren should be announced among the new members.

It was agreed that that should be done, and that Mr. Warren should be invited to attend Tuesday's meeting of the Central Board.

The GENERAL SECRETARY also pointed out that Mr. Saxton, who had been elected a member of the Midland Board, had been appointed secretary of the section. It would be in order for Mr. Saxton to act as a member of the Board for the next twelve months, but at the end of the twelve months it would be for the Central Board to say if he should be allowed to remain a member of the Board.

Mr. T. WOOD (scrutineer) reported that in going through the voting papers for the Scottish Sectional Board he found that two asterisks indicating who were the retiring members of the Scottish Sectional Board had slipped from their places and appeared opposite the names appearing below. The evidence of the examination of the papers was that the societies selected special candidates, for whom they voted—whether retiring candidates or candidates outside that category—and then they placed their crosses opposite the retiring candidates. That being so, and the two asterisks having slipped, if the results had been announced with the results of the elections in the other sections, it might have meant a serious injustice done to one of the candidates—at least to the extent of about ninety votes. Personally, he felt confident, by the manner in which these votes were recorded, that they were intended for the retiring candidate; but he could not allow the result to be announced without consulting that meeting, and he wanted to be advised.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said that on the original proof of the voting paper the asterisks were opposite the names of the retiring candidates, but two had slipped. It was customary, particularly in the Scottish Section—they had noticed it year after year—that the societies went solidly for the retiring candidates, they did that in ninety cases out of a hundred. He noticed that there was something wrong. They went through the votes of 34 societies that had always been in the habit of voting in the way indicated, and their votes were found opposite the asterisks. These votes totalled to about 90, and by deducting these votes from the candidate who got them and placing them against the candidate who should have been marked by an asterisk, it gave him the total he had had at the last two elections. He asked the Board's advice as to whether the results should be announced as they were or whether there should be another election.

Mr. M. H. CLEAR (Southern Section) : It is not our business to interpret what might have been. I move that we have another election.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) said he had thought that something had gone wrong with the world for some time. Now he knew what it was : The stars in their courses had gone wrong. He seconded the motion.

Mr. N. MACLEAN (Scottish Section) said that, according to the statement made by Mr. Whitehead, eight of the sitting members had been re-elected. They had been legally elected. The whole question resolved itself into this : These eight are legally elected, and the dispute is only with regard to those from whom the asterisks have slipped.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) : There can be no legal election if there is a misdirection of the voters, and the whole thing must be done anew.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section) said he did not think it was right to issue the results of the elections with the Scottish Section blank. He saw the thing in the *Co-operative News*, and it had set many rumours afloat. He held that a legal election had taken place. It did not matter—and he was speaking with knowledge—it did not matter whether the paper was properly filled up or not, the votes were there and must be taken into consideration. They were not safe in saying that the election was null and void.

Mr. WHITEHEAD : We have not said it.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR : Is the paper legal or is it not?

The GENERAL SECRETARY quoted the rule, which stated that the voting papers should contain the names of the candidates in alphabetical order, the retiring members to be denoted by an asterisk. One of the retiring candidates was not denoted by an asterisk.

Mr. G. MAJOR (North-Western Section) : The result of this election puts Scotland down a peg——

Mr. N. MACLEAN : No, it is the English printers that——

Mr. G. MAJOR : What about the Scottish societies that do not know their own sectional members?

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) rose to put a legal point, which he said would have to be tested. The slipping of the asterisk only affected one member of the Board. The eight members with regard to whom there was no mistake, and who had got the number of votes necessary to secure their election, were legally elected. If any names were now to be put to the societies it was only the names of those affected by the slipping of the asterisk. The other eight should be declared duly elected.

Mr. Wood (scrutineer), in reply to Mr. Blair's question as to the legality of the paper, said he would agree with Mr. Wilson, but the only objection was that it accentuated the position of the one exception. There could be no question, from the results of the voting, of the position of those already elected if a new election were to take place.

Mr. J. H. BATE (Southern Section) : Suppose some of those now elected find themselves on the other list?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Those who have been elected have nothing to fear. There were eight old members elected and two others. Neither of these two were candidates against whose names the asterisks were placed. Through the asterisks slipping it had allowed one of these to go in. He thought they should let this go to the Congress.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) moved that there should be a fresh election for the Scottish Section, and that in the meantime the existing members continue to act.

Mr. N. MACLEAN (Scottish Section) : You have a record of the societies that voted. You should ask them to state for whom they voted, and you will then find whether the slipping of the asterisks had any effect.

Mr. G. BISSET (Scottish Section) reminded Mr. Blair that eight of the members were already elected.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) : That is so. Eight members are elected, and the Scottish Section are determined that a general election for the whole of the members shall not take place. The slipping of the asterisks only involves the question of one member, and we claim that eight members have been duly elected.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : If you find this a good ballot paper, one of your members is unseated, and there are not eight, but ten, members elected to the Sectional Board.

Mr. J. T. DAVIS (South-Western Section) said they heard a good deal about the lead that Scotland was supposed to give to the rest of the kingdom, but they had now heard that it was their custom to put their votes against names with asterisks. That did not reflect favourably upon the intelligence of the Scottish electors. In view of the fact that there had been a mistake on the voting paper, the only democratic thing to do was to have another election in Scotland.

Mr. P. LONEY (Scottish Section) : Who is responsible for the declaration of the poll? We have it from Mr. Wood that there are eight members of the Scottish Section re-elected.

Mr. T. WOOD : According to the regulations of the Union the voting paper was not in order, and for that reason it was thought better to submit the whole case to you and to Congress.

Mr. W. BROWN (South-Western Section) : I move that the question be now put.

This was seconded, and the chairman was about to put the question to the vote when

Mr. A. Purdie wanted to speak, but this was objected to, and Mr. Blair was asked to read his motion (stated above).

There were protests from the Scottish members against the matter being put.

Mr. J. ALLAN (Scottish Section) asked if he had not heard Mr. Wood say that eight of the present members were re-elected? Was there any reason on earth why these men should be kept in doubt because of the mistake with reference to one?

The GENERAL SECRETARY asked for unanimity, if that were possible.

The CHAIRMAN : My mission in life is to pour oil on troubled waters. If an amendment is now allowed, will the Scottish Sectional Board accept the finding of the Central Board? (Dissent from Scottish members.)

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) wanted to move that the paper be considered a legal paper, and that all those elected should stand.

The CHAIRMAN : I have asked the Scottish Section if they would agree, but they would not.

The motion by Mr. Blair was put, and no hands were shown against it. (The Scottish members did not vote.)

The CHAIRMAN : I have to declare the motion unanimously carried.

A Voice : Not unanimously!

The CHAIRMAN : Well, nobody voted against it.

Mr. Maclean, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Patterson asked that their protests against the finding should be noted.

Mr. A. Purdie wanted to refer further to the matter, but the chairman said it had now been decided. Mr. Loney and others wished to speak besides Mr. Purdie, but the General Secretary asked the Scottish members to meet him afterwards, and was proceeding to the next business, which had reference to the Women's Guild,

Mr. PURDIE, however, persisted in speaking, and alleged that there was a bias getting up in the meeting against the Scottish delegates.

The GENERAL SECRETARY repeated his request that the Scottish members should meet him afterwards.

The Scottish delegates retired in a body from the meeting, Mr. MACLEAN remarking : If there is to be a new election, we are not members of the Sectional Board and have no right to be here.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : You are wrong, Mr. Maclean. You are members till the close of this Congress.

The next business was then proceeded with.

WOMEN'S GUILD GRANTS.

After the GENERAL SECRETARY had given a brief outline of the position,

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) moved—"That the grants be made as usual."

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) : I think there should be a conference held between the Central Board and the Women's Guild Committee. There is a growth of a feeling of dissatisfaction in the guild, as well as in the co-operative movement, at the present strained relations. I am not satisfied, for I do not believe in the attitude of independence, because there cannot be "independence" in the co-operative movement. I believe there may be some harmony of interest found in an interview which cannot be found in correspondence; and I move—"That the matter be remitted to the United Board to communicate with the Women's Guild on this question." I do not think the guild can realise the whole of the question.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section): I move—"That we only have the conference if the guild refuse the grant."

Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY (hon. member, Southern Section): I deprecate the strain that has existed, and feel it would be wise to have a conference and bring the present disagreeable state of things to an end. But I cannot tolerate the idea that the guild is independent, and although I think Mr. Blair's suggestion is good, I think I will support Mr. Charter's attitude for the present. I hope the other can be obtained.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section): I think you should try, even although we have tried and failed, by persuasion and reason to see if we could get some agreement; and I hope the Board will take that view, for we will gain in every way. I second Mr. Blair's motion.

Mr. W. J. DOUSE (Midland Section): I desire very modestly indeed to emphasise what I have ventured to say the last two years: that if we had had some similar method to Mr. Blair's this painful matter might have been ended. I support Mr. Blair.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section): Mr. Douse forgets that conferences have been held, with no result. The Midland is the only sensible section. There are only a few who are responsible for the present deadlock, and is it not a sign of weakness if we pass such a resolution, in view of what has taken place in the attitude of the Midland Section? They will say: "The Central Board is climbing down; we have only to wait a little time and they will climb right down and we will get all we want."

Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section): I do not like the attitude of the Board, not only to-day, but previously. They give the rank and file very little credit for brains and intelligence. Surely no one will suggest that the people who go to the Guild Congress have no intelligence—and there are intelligent people elsewhere than in the Midlands. I see Mr. Charter's resolution is that the grant should be given in the same way as previously, and as the Co-operative Wholesale Society gives, because the guilds are doing valuable work for the movement. I feel it is no use passing a resolution like last year; for if the past attitude is the same they would turn it down. The past work of the guild proves that they work for the movement, and not against it.

Mr. R. R. CHAPPELL (Western Section): I suggest that we bring in conciliation and submit the whole points to an independent arbitrator. Yes! it is a way out of the difficulty, and I think both sides would agree to a decision of an unbiassed chairman. We do not want to see this disagreement going on, and if the Women's Guild would agree to that suggestion we might get out of the difficulty.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section): I think the Central Board should pass a resolution giving a grant of the sum made before and on the conditions given to the Irish and Scottish sections. The English Guild has exaggerated the danger that would result in accepting; they do not have a proper idea of the value of conciliation. We do not want to interfere with their freedom;

we do not want to dictate things; but we want to be considered the legitimate head of the movement, and that no body which draws support should claim absolute independence. I urge the Central Board, in spite of what has taken place, to treat the guild as the other guilds, and in no other way.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR: I can hold my resolution up till you pass the other resolution. It is not an amendment; it is a separate resolution.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section): I second the motion by Mr. Rae. Nearly every Sectional Board is taken up by this question. We agreed to give them the grant on the condition they should not take up any political work that comes under the control of the Board. If the women want an interview they only need to ask. I see no reason to discuss this question, because I think if we intend to retain any authority over the functions of the units then we must make some limit to the doings of the Women's Guild. We should let the Women's Guild go and do its work, and let political questions stand aside.

Mr. D. WILLIAMS (Western Section): It is all very well to talk about the control of the Women's Guild; what we forget is that the women are in advance of the movement. If the Central Board is going to restrict the guild's powers, it will be a bad thing for the co-operative movement. I am in favour of giving the grant and perfect liberty. The movement consists largely of women, who are determined to fight for their position on the boards of management, and the Central Board is taking up an attitude that is preventing them from having liberty.

Mr. W. J. MCGUFFIN (Irish Executive): As a democrat, I am surprised at the attitude of the Women's Guild. If we allow everyone to do as they want, God help discipline. While I am a member of the Board I shall endeavour to see that the tail shall not wag the dog.

Mrs. M. FOUND (South-Western Section): I move—"That the grant be given unconditionally," as it was given for some years.

The CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Found has added something that is not understood, and I rule it out. I suggest an amendment to the resolution will get the true feeling of the meeting, for a grant never was given unconditionally.

A vote was taken on Mr. Rae's resolution, and it was carried by 29 votes to three.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR: I now move—"That a conference should be held between the two bodies." Like the peace moves, it might fail; but even these might not always fail. There is a growing tendency for peace on the part of the guild.

Mr. DOUSE: I second Mr. Blair's motion.

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section): I am inclined to think that we had better take care that the olive branch does not turn out to be a holly bush.

The CHAIRMAN: I have been surprised at the talk about the matter being painful. I do not see where it is painful. We have offered them perfectly fair terms; and I suggest that, if Mr. Blair will consider it, this resolution is not needed at all.

Mr. BLAIR : We are a bigger body and can afford to be magnanimous. I believe the resolution will pass; and when the resolution in regard to auxiliary bodies is passed by Congress, a new feeling will spring up in the minds of the Women's Guild, and negotiations could be carried through. It is largely a question of misunderstanding.

Mr. J. DAVISON (Northern Section) : I support Mr. Blair. If we are the stronger and the wiser of the two sexes, then I think we should take the nobler stand. It is not strength and wisdom that we should stand apart. We should invite the women to discuss the situation, and, if we find the women in the right, we can admit it.

Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY (hon. member, Southern Section) : I want it to be perfectly clear that there is no talk of bending from our attitude. The question has been raised sufficiently here, and the women have found out that the Board maintains its position as the elected government of the movement. Mr. Blair's resolution should convey that firmly. Personally I would like to see the matter ended, for the Co-operative Wholesale Society think they will have to make up the deficiency which the refusal to take the grant causes, and I hope it is only a case of common-sense men and common-sense women getting together and removing the *impasse*.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) : The co-operative movement has decided to take up politics, so you see politics will come up and women will not be able to discuss them. I want to go into definite points. I suggest that no round-table conference be held until the United Board decides on what basis it will be held, so that we can decide our steps beforehand.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) urged that Mr. Blair should accept the round-table conference, and that the position should be explained to the women. This was not an agreement; it was an implied understanding by a subsidiary body. Mr. Whitehead seemed to suggest that the guild misunderstood what was meant by an auxiliary body. The question was of the women giving up their independence in their own Congress. It meant that they as a body elected, who had the custodianship of the movement in their hands, would not be doing their duty if they allowed any body to take that from them or shelve it to the United Board.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) said there could be no truth in the statement that the women did not know the details of the conditions in this matter. The guild came before the Board, and the Board argued the matter with them point by point. The Board had no desire to restrict the women in doing any kind of work which the movement permitted the Board to do. The guild was put on the same plane as the Board. The Board gave the guild permission to do anything that they themselves were permitted to do. They could only use the money subscribed by the movement in accordance with the conditions laid down by Congress. How could the Board give money to the guild to carry on propaganda that the Board was not allowed to carry on? The position was not created by the Board. They had been told that the guild could not accept the grant unless they had full freedom to do what

they liked with it. The Board could not use freedom like that themselves, and they could not grant it to others.

Mr. MILLERCHIP moved—"That the question be now put."

Mr. W. R. BLAIR, having replied, there voted—For Mr. Blair's resolution, 25; against, 19.

The CHAIRMAN declared Mr. Blair's proposal carried.

The next business was the question of grants to the Scottish and Irish Guilds.

The GENERAL SECRETARY intimated that last year the grants had been increased from £150 to £175 for the Scottish Guild and from £30 to £50 for the Irish Guild.

Mr. W. GREGORY moved—"That the Scottish Guild get £200." But it was agreed to give £175 and £50 respectively, as last year.

THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE.

The GENERAL SECRETARY intimated receipt of a letter from Mr. J. Johnston (North-Western Section) disagreeing with the recommendation of the Survey Committee with regard to the appointment of a permanent paid Executive for the Union.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON said the reason he did not speak on this when it was before the Central Board meeting was that he did not realise that it was passed until Mrs. Found spoke on the next question, and he was then ruled out of order. He disagreed with the recommendation of the Survey Committee on the recommendation contained in the report. It was a step in the wrong direction, and was going away from democracy to bureaucracy. It might be said they had such a committee in the Co-operative Wholesale Society, but the two cases were entirely different. The business transactions of the Co-operative Wholesale Society were quite different from the affairs of the Union, and the two things were not compatible, and the arguments for the necessity for such a committee in the wholesale did not apply to the necessity for it in the Union. The recommendation had not been sufficiently considered. He opposed it when it was before the North-Western Sectional Board. It would take the power out of the hands of the democracy and would put it into the hands of a select body who would be elected. Ours was essentially a democratic movement, and unless we kept control of the work of the Union in the hands of the elected members of the Sectional Boards it would tend to reduce popular control. What was the necessity for making a change of this sort. He never called at the offices of the Union without seeing a number of members of the Board from all parts of the country. They had permanent officials: a general secretary, an assistant secretary, a director of studies, a secretary for the Educational Department, and they had appointed a Labour Adviser. They were spending a good deal of money on officials who were necessary, but this would bring a serious addition to the expenses of the Union, and some societies were doubtful whether they were getting full value

for the expenditure. He moved that this recommendation should be referred back.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) : At the last meeting of the Board we adopted this report. Is it competent to discuss it now?

The CHAIRMAN : It is on the agenda.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) : The whole report was discussed and accepted.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) : I move we proceed to next business. ("Agreed!")

Mr. J. JOHNSTON : I give notice that I will raise the matter at Congress.

POLITICAL POLICY.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON moved the following resolution, of which he had sent in notice :—

That the Central Board recommends the Congress to revise the Parliamentary programme of co-operative political policy adopted at the Emergency Conference held in London in October last on more definite and complete lines, as indicated in the copy supplied to members of the Central Board, and to make it obligatory on all approved co-operative candidates seeking election to Parliament to adopt such programme and issue it as part of their election address.

Mr. Johnston, recalling the Prestwich election, said that Mr. May, in his programme, made no reference to his being the co-operative candidate. (Mr. May corrected Mr. Johnston upon this point.) He believed that if we were now going to fight for co-operative advancement we must not hide our light under a bushel, and he proceeded to point out the effect of the changes and additions he proposed.

The resolution was not seconded, and the meeting proceeded to the next business.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY AND SURVEY COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) wanted the meeting to approve of a resolution which would express the feeling that the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society directors had not treated the Survey Committee with the consideration they were entitled to expect. After some little discussion with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, they have set to work to prepare the information the Trade Sub-committee of the Survey Committee wanted; but the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's Board had withheld any possibility of getting that information. They had declined to have a talk round the table with members of the Trade Sub-committee. The Survey Committee would like to be allowed to move at Congress—

That this Congress, having regard to the importance of the questions which the Survey Committee is investigating, regrets that it has not been possible for the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society

to meet representatives of the Survey Committee, or to submit answers to their questions, and expresses its opinion that it is desirable that the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society should receive representatives of the Survey Committee or submit replies to their questions at as early a date as possible, in order that the report of the Survey Committee may be completed and be presented to the movement at an early date.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section), who seconded the resolution, said : I think it is necessary to take strong action. ("Agreed.")

Mr. E. O. GREENING (hon. member, Southern Section) : I want to make an appeal to the two Wholesale Societies to meet the Survey Committee and give all the information in their power. I have been struck by the excellent results that have come from the Survey Report. The great Empire of China maintains a permanent survey committee in the shape of a Board of Censors, and that has a great deal to do with the continuance of the Empire for thousands of years when others have fallen away. My suggestion is that, in some form or other, we should devise a permanence of the work of the Survey Committee.

Mr. J. P. DAVIES (Western Section) : Has the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society been informed that this course is about to be taken?

Mr. RAE : No; they got the letter too late.

The CHAIRMAN : It is agreed, then, to go on with the motion and, in the meantime, to get into touch with the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and let them know, and if they agree, that this will be withdrawn.

THE FINANCES OF THE UNION.

Mr. F. HAYWARD (North-Western Section) : I think we need to look at this matter entirely from the point of view of the Union as a whole. The income is a steady amount, but the expenditure has arisen in greater ratio, and the total expenditure has exceeded the amount of societies' contributions. We would have had a debit balance if it had not been for investments. I think we have got to look at this matter and examine our position for the future, or we will be in a worse position next year than ever before. There is the cost of the Labour Adviser, the permanent secretary for the Midland Section, the increase of postage and printing, and the Legal Department; take all these as definitely decided and there is an increased expenditure of £2,000 on the figures submitted. We have either got to increase our income or decrease our expenditure. There are methods, by co-ordinating the work between the sections, in which economies could be effected without destroying the efficiency of the Union. Very large sums of money are spent in some sections on certain objects and nothing in others on these particular items. Various sections, of course, stand in various ways; but if we had an arrangement whereby sections could be controlled on a common basis between the Central Board and the sections, we could do equally effective work at a con-

siderably reduced expenditure. If this matter is left over till next year you will be face to face then with a serious deficiency.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : It is true that large societies could easily have paid the expenditure of some of the propaganda work, and the sub-committee think there could be some co-ordination. It is a point which has often been considered, and the Finance Committee has given instructions for a further detailed statement to be prepared on an average sum per member of a society as a basis.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) : I think there can be no objection to the way in which the sections spend the money so long as it is on co-operative lines and on co-operative principles. I do not think we should enter into comparisons because comparisons are odious, and it is likely to set off one section against another. If you look at the Midland Section's expenses you will find these are increased mainly by railway fares and fees, which have increased by the dislocation of the railway service. I think you will find it is both economical and successful, and compares with any of the other sections favourably. But every section has adopted its own methods, because these are suitable to the area, and this is perfectly fair. For heaven's sake do not let us interfere with the freedom of the societies that are doing all the propaganda work and getting the value of increased subscriptions. That work does not want curtailment, but development. Then, because a society is big you want it to pay for its speakers; and yet we are continually telling societies that they pay for their propaganda by their subscriptions to the Union. Let us tell the societies plainly : Increase your subscriptions so that the work of propaganda can go on.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) said they were all indebted to Mr. Hayward for directing their attention to this, but he accepted Mr. Millerchip's view, that if they increased their expenditure their income would increase accordingly. Their increase came out of the increase in the membership of the Union, and he was convinced that they might look to this source for a great increase in the future. He also believed that if they went on as they were doing they would get an increase in the subscriptions from societies willingly, and if they were to propose an increase to 2d. per member they would get it from the movement. He would like to see the Board taking action on the lines of increasing the expenditure and increasing the subscriptions.

Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY (hon. member, Southern Section) : There are items like £522 for the Emergency Conference. Are these likely to recur?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : We are not sure. We have a proposal for an emergency conference in the autumn, but it will have to come before the United Board.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) did not agree with either Mr. Millerchip or Mr. Watkins that more could be got from the societies. When they looked at the estimate of the year's expenditure it would be admitted to be serious. He remembered very well that when they increased the sub-

scription to 1½d. per member they had difficulties and deputations. If societies read the report and saw that there had been no attempt to curtail the expenditure, and saw sectional boards sending speakers from one end of the section to the other, while there were members within a stone's throw on the list, they would say it was wasteful expenditure and should stop. It was for the Office Committee to take these matters into consideration, and where they could curtail the expenditure it should be done rather than act upon the suggestion that the societies should raise their subscriptions. If they went on at the rate at which they were going it would mean the bankruptcy court.

Mr. G. MAJOR (North-Western Section) thought some consideration should be paid to the way in which the sections were spending their money. He did not see how it came about that one Sectional Board spent 19 per cent in the section and another spent 63 per cent. The Midland Section only spent 28 per cent. There was something extravagant when the expenditure varied from 19 per cent to 63 per cent. He thought there should be something more like uniformity in this matter.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) pointed out that there should be more differentiation between large and small societies. It was from the large society they had got the big subscriptions, and these societies were doing many things for themselves. In his own section they had five speakers from the Union, but that did not mean a tenth part of their own expenditure. In comparison with what the Union spent on those speakers, Birmingham had spent £100 to £150. One section had to spend more than another; one might need more than another. The section that spent the largest amount was a co-operative desert at present and had often to send a speaker 150 miles. The need there was greater than elsewhere. If more money was needed he thought the Union could justify the expenditure.

The GENERAL SECRETARY explained that the Sub-office Committee only wanted to bring the advancing expenditure before the notice of the Board. They proposed to bring it up again.

Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY: Is it proposed to bring this before Congress? When these large expenditures are contemplated it seems to me that you should apprise the movement.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: This is outlined in the report of the work of the Union.

For the Parliamentary Fund we have received a total of £5,271. 7s. 2d. This is in addition to the £1,000 which we have not yet received from the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

CONGRESS PROCEDURE.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) reminded the meeting that they were proposing changes in the constitution of the Parliamentary Representation Committee. It had been entrusted to Mr. Goodenough to move these. He believed Mr. Goodenough was not enthusiastically in favour of the proposals, and he thought Mr. Goodenough should therefore be relieved of this duty.

After some deliberation, it was arranged that Mr. Hayward should move the proposal and that Mr. Charter should second.

The GENERAL SECRETARY intimated that he had received two amendments to the constitutional proposals. One was from the Co-operative Productive Federation asking to be represented on the Central Committee.

It was agreed to accept this if Congress agreed.

The other was from Clydebank, Cowlares, St. George, St. Rollox, and Shettleston societies asking for a separate committee to be instituted for Scotland.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section) pointed out that the general trend of Scotland in this matter had been more progressive than in England, and in some cases in Scotland they were working with Labour Councils. It was questionable whether it would not be better to let Scotland take this action.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) said they were proposing to set up sectional councils and to make one section a separate committee was not consistent with the ideas put forward in the scheme presented to Congress. Personally, he saw no reason for Scotland's claim to act on behalf of Scotland in a definite way. If the finances were conducted nationally there should be no separation.

Mr. W. R. RAE explained that the United Board had sent him to the Scottish National Conference. He found that the whole feeling in Scotland on this matter arose out of a mistake made somewhere by somebody. In Scotland they had political organisations in operation. They desired that these political organisations should be accepted under the new scheme, but because they did not fit in with the details they were turned down. It was not quite the fault of the Scottish societies that they had taken the attitude the amendment showed, as he had heard their description of the situation at the national conference.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section): There was a difficulty which arose between Scotland and the Parliamentary Representation Committee, but it was with regard to the old scheme—the scheme of local councils as originally recommended. The new proposals to come before Congress did away with those difficulties.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section): We want to look upon this matter in the same way as we look upon the women's guilds. We could not do this for Scotland without doing injustice to the movement. The whole existing machinery should be adopted to apply to the whole country. The Scottish scheme and methods of work are not in conformity with the scheme adopted by the Emergency Conference. The existing arrangements in Scotland do not harmonise, and it would be a mistake to start sectionalising this great scheme. To have a separate and distinct policy for different parts of the country would detract from the national power which the movement is desirous of wielding. ("Agreed.")

MEMBERS' EXPENSES.

On the recommendation of the Office Committee it was agreed that members of the Board be entitled to charge nine days' expenses for the Congress.

THE ELECTION OF SECTIONAL BOARDS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY intimated that a letter had been received from the Northern Sectional Board regarding the Survey Committee's recommendation that there should be district nominations and sectional voting. It was pointed out, however, that the Board had adopted the Survey Committee's Report.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY REFUNDED.

The GENERAL SECRETARY submitted a letter from the Leeds Society intimating that £14,593 charged for excess profits duty had been refunded, and thanking the Union for its services in connection with the claim for the return of the money.

TEES-SIDE FEDERATION.

The GENERAL SECRETARY also submitted a letter from the Co-operative Wholesale Society regarding future developments. The letter referred to a meeting of the No. 7 District Conference, on 11th May, at which Mr. Bedford, a member of the Northern Sectional Board, read a paper. The strong point of the paper had reference to the possibility of societies producing as well as distributing, and dwelt upon the possibilities of Tees-side. Seven societies had agreed to form a federation to run a jam factory at Stockton. The Co-operative Wholesale Society's General Board had this matter under consideration and desired to direct attention to the use that was being made of district conferences.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) : Are we going to pass a resolution restricting societies from producing anything for themselves?

Mr. W. R. RAE said the letter should be referred to the Northern Section.

Mr. WHITEHEAD pointed out that it was the bigger question of societies forming federations, for productive purposes, that was involved.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the United Board.

Mr. RAE : And let them refer it to the Northern Section.

COUNSEL'S OPINION ON AFFILIATION.

The GENERAL SECRETARY made a statement with regard to the question of the affiliation of societies with political parties, and read a fresh opinion that had been obtained. It was intimated that the whole matter could be published in the Union's "Quarterly Review."

A letter was also read from Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., regretting that he

could not be present at the Congress, but stating that he hoped to send a few lines that could be read at Congress.

This concluded the business, and Mr. Goodenough was thanked for presiding.

THE CONGRESS LUNCHEON.

The fourth war-time complimentary luncheon was held in the gorgeous guest chamber of St. George's Hall, on Saturday, 18th May, and a very agreeable function it was, the friends of the Liverpool Society catering really excellently.

Mr. H. J. BEESTON, president of the Liverpool Society, presided; and he was immediately supported by the Deputy-Lord Mayor of the city in the person of Alderman F. S. Mather (barrister-at-law), and Dr. Chavasse, the Bishop of Liverpool.

The toast list was opened with the usual tribute of loyalty on the call of the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN then said: On behalf of the co-operators of the City of Liverpool and Birkenhead I welcome you all. It is not often one has the privilege of attending a function of this kind a second time. This is the second time I have attended, as a member of the Reception Committee, at a Congress in Liverpool. It is nineteen years ago since the last Congress was held here, and I am sorry to say many good and faithful co-operators have passed away since then. Nineteen years ago we had with us that old standard-bearer of co-operation, George Jacob Holyoake, and Mr. Gray, the secretary of the Co-operative Union. In those days co-operation in the City of Liverpool was at a very low ebb. It had been in existence some years, but the membership at that time only numbered 11,011. We had the assistance of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Co-operative Union to try and make the black spot on the Mersey bright, and then when the Congress met at Peterborough we asked for the Congress to come to Liverpool, and we thank the many delegates for sending the Congress here. That was the making of co-operation in Liverpool, and since then our trade has gone up by leaps and bounds. Our trade to-day is over a million a year, and is still going up. Our members number over 45,000, an increase of 43,000 in nineteen years. It is not my intention to take up your time here, as there are abler men than I to speak, but we give you a hearty welcome to Liverpool. There is only one regret in this matter—there is no exhibition. I should have been pleased to show friends outside the co-operative movement what the hands of co-operative labour make and do. I am pleased the Lord Bishop of Liverpool is here and the ex-Lord Mayor. I have just one word to say in regard to the change taking place throughout the world to-day. Woman, I am pleased to say, is

coming to her right. Woman has played a great part in the co-operative movement, and if she takes the same part in parliamentary and municipal elections as in the co-operative movement a good many people will know that she is there. I may say this, the woman to-day who is a co-operator—and without her co-operation would be very slow—she is a thinking person. She knows how to spend her money, and when she comes to the quarterly meetings she knows what she is going to do—and she does it.

Mr. W. LANDER (Co-operative Wholesale Society) proposed the toast of "The Allied Forces and Mercantile Marine." He said: The toast to which I have the honour to ask your attention this afternoon is a most important one, and certainly a very unusual one to have on the programme of a Congress luncheon. We had thought that after all our co-operating with the democracy of the world we were bringing the time nearer when wars and rumours of war should be things of the past. Unfortunately, to-day, the world is disturbed by what one might describe as the greatest war the world has ever seen, and our prayer is that the war may soon cease—to cease only by the putting down of the supremacy of militarism and Kaiserism, and by supplanting them with more righteous, human, and Christianlike relationship of the nations of the civilised world. It would ill become me to take up your time with the war itself; that is no part of my business. I have to put before you the claims of three branches of national service. First of all, I have to ask you to drink to the success of the Army, and that sounds strange coming from me. I have been trying in my little way for over thirty years to say that armies were not necessary, that arbitration ought to supplant brute force, that reason should always have a fair chance, and that militarism had no place whatever in the creed of the co-operative movement. But, at the present time, we have a new army, comprising some of the best men in the country and the Empire, men of the commercial and industrial classes, many of whom are there not because they love fighting, but because they love liberty and the motherland. They are prepared not only to go, but to do and to dare, and many of them, alas, have given their lives to the country they hold so dear and love so well. The Army, under present conditions of national life, seems almost a necessity if we are to maintain our position as a nation along with our Allies. Therefore, while deprecating the need for war I am sure I speak your feelings when I say that the men who have gone, the men who have sacrificed, the men who have suffered—and not only have the men suffered, but those who are left behind have suffered severely, the women and children—we cannot do less than honour their work and wish them God-speed. So far as the Navy is concerned, well, I suppose we as an island country depend on the Navy very greatly, and I do not think we have ever depended on the Navy in vain. They have always been our strong bulwark. They are there when they are wanted, and, just recently, they have been there when they were not wanted—by the other side. Speaking of the courage, the determination, and the heroism of the men of every rank—and when I speak of the Army and the Navy I also mean those

of the Allied Nations as well—I cannot find words to describe our feelings in paying homage to our Navy, from the highest Admiral down to the lowest rating. Now, I come to the men of the Mercantile Marine, and, while in a great city and port like Liverpool, it is difficult for a landsman to speak on the subject. We get away from the fighting forces and come to the service that, until quite recently, received very little reward or notice, although it really kept us from starving in this country. Travelling about the country as I do, it is glorious to me to come across men, who have been torpedoed once, twice, thrice, and more times, gathering together a new kit to go and man the ships and to bring food for the children and the people of this great country of ours. We cannot sufficiently recognise the labours, the heroism, and the dangers the men of the Mercantile Marine have encountered and the great work they have done. What I do say is, these men, like all our men of the Forces who have been called upon to sacrifice in the country's service, should be well remunerated by the country that calls them to the service. And those left behind should never be allowed to want by a country running over with wealth which, unfortunately, is badly divided so far as you and I are concerned. The nation owes a great debt to all these Forces, and I say the country should pay them, and pay them well. I ask you to drink to this toast, and I do hope it will be the last time that we shall meet in Congress while the war drums are beating. We are out to put down the forces of tyranny, and may they be put down for ever among the nations, may brotherhood be established among them, and the recognition of that Great Power which governs the Universe, the Father of us all, and may Peace be established on a sound foundation that will carry through the generations that are to follow us.

Mr. ROBERT STEWART, J.P. (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society), who proposed "The Civic and Commercial Prosperity of the Port of Liverpool," said that, viewed from the historical point of view, and from the point of view of the great progress made by its civic authorities and its social reformers, Liverpool would have to be regarded as a famous city. Liverpool had been engaged in many reforms which had for their object the uplifting and improvement of the social conditions of the people. Like most great cities and towns, Liverpool had its slums. These things were to be found, in a worse degree probably than in other towns, in towns situated on the seaboard. The civic authorities in Liverpool had embarked on a great clearance scheme, with a view to giving the people a brighter environment to live in, and many of the towns and cities in the United Kingdom could send deputations to visit Liverpool's new suburbs and to report. They have also been dealing with another thorny question—the liquor question—in a drastic way. Many years ago Liverpool cleared hundreds of public-houses out of its midst. Liverpool's action at that time had created a good deal of excitement throughout the country, and many municipalities which had been dealing with this question sent deputations to Liverpool to make inquiries. He had heard some of the reports, and the great changes that had been effected in the social and

material conditions of the people were something marvellous. The Corporation gave large sums to promote education, so that the poorest boy or girl had an opportunity of going from the elementary school even to the University. He would also like to point to what had been done by public-spirited citizens in providing museums, libraries, and other places and facilities for the good, the enjoyment, and the pleasure of the people. These things showed that Liverpool was a city of no mean standing. The first public wash-house erected in England for the poor was erected in Liverpool in 1842. Speaking of Liverpool as a wonderful hive of industry, he said it was now the second port in the United Kingdom, and it was the leading port so far as trade with the United States and Canada was concerned. He congratulated Liverpool upon its docks, upon its shipbuilding, and upon the wonderful performance of two of their own river ferry boats a few days before at Zeebrugge. In co-operative affairs Liverpool was also progressing, and it was able to do something for the movement at this time that Manchester had been unable to do.

The DEPUTY-LORD MAYOR, in responding, said : I am very sorry that the Lord Mayor is unable to be with you to-day. His Lordship has been working at such high pressure that he has been compelled, under medical orders, to seek a well-earned and compulsory rest for a short time. Had it been at all possible he would have been here with you to-day. I hope to have the opportunity on Monday of giving you and your colleagues an official welcome to this city on this, the Jubilee Congress of the Co-operative Union, and to have an opportunity of addressing you on that occasion, but at the present moment I am only dealing with the toast which has been so ably and so kindly proposed. Mr. Stewart has just spoken of wash-houses never having been built before 1842, that was the year I came into the world. Plenty of washing has been done since that time whatever was done before. I feel it a great honour to have to reply to the toast of the good old Port of Liverpool—the second city in the Empire—if the representatives of Glasgow will allow me to say so—the city of which we are all so justly proud. I am proud of Liverpool, the city of my birth, and where all my life has been spent ; and I feel that I am a citizen of no mean city. But we must remember that this great port does not belong to Liverpool alone, but includes Birkenhead and Wallasey, all forming important parts of one great whole ; and when we speak of Wallasey it is present to all our minds what splendid and patriotic work Wallasey's two steamers, the "Iris" and the "Daffodil," have lately achieved. I have just had the privilege—by the kind invitation of His Worship the Mayor of Wallasey—of joining in the official welcome to these two steamers and their gallant officers and crews on their return home. These names will be handed down to posterity as having played so great and important a part in the successful Zeebrugge attack. This toast, to which I have the honour to reply, has to-day an old-fashioned touch. The City and Port of Liverpool was the toast regularly given in official banquets before the war. What a long time it seems to be since we heard it ; and what does this toast imply ? It implies that notwithstanding the war, notwithstanding the

great commercial upheaval from which we suffer, notwithstanding the metamorphosis of our port, there is still room for the toast—still room for us to dwell upon a topic dear to all Liverpool men. The proposer has dwelt upon the greatness of Liverpool, upon its docks and its shipping, upon its commercial magnates and its huge interests. Will this greatness continue? Will Liverpool maintain its supremacy when the noise of battle has ceased and the struggle for the world's commerce recommences? What will be our attitude towards those who have betrayed the world's confidence and steeped themselves in ignoble deeds of infamy? How will this and kindred ports fare in the race for the carrying power of the millions of tonnage between all parts of the globe? These are important questions. The problem of demobilisation, pensions, social regeneration, employment, and a multitude of kindred questions provide food for thought, speculation, and, shall I say, anxiety. Added to this list comes the housing question—a big question for the city to tackle—the development of municipal undertakings, the consideration of the growth of electrical enterprise, the greater introduction of machinery, &c. These and all the other matters of commercial supremacy, acumen, and foresight will need to be tackled by our public men, and for all these questions we need to be equipped by education, energy, and initiative. Here our University will play her part if she is wise; in fact for all, for the City Council, for our education authorities, our Dock Board, our Chambers of Commerce, our business men, aye, and our trade unions, there is work to be done—work of a stupendous character, far-reaching in its effects, all of which will seal the destiny and happiness (or the reverse) of the new generation who rise phoenix-like from the ashes of an old world, the like of which will never again be seen. I thank you, one and all, for the kind way in which you have received this toast. May the City and Trade of Liverpool go on and prosper.

“The Co-operative Movement at Home and Abroad” was proposed by the Bishop of Liverpool. The Congress has done me a very great honour in inviting me to be present this afternoon and to move this great toast. For many years I have taken the deepest interest in the co-operative movement, but if I were to venture on so big a subject to-day I should keep you here till midnight. Will you, therefore, allow me to say one word about the great principle that lies behind the movement to-day. I see before my eyes that great principle expressed in action, and with all my heart I thank you for applying that great principle of co-operation, to daily life. I was reading a little sketch of the late Lord Grey, who took the liveliest interest in co-operation, and he said, and I believe he said truly, that the progress of co-operation was phenomenal; he could only compare it to the spread of Christianity in its early days. And I believe co-operation is spreading because it is animated by one of the greatest and truest and noblest principles in the world. I thank you, as a Christian, for putting that principle into operation. The present industrial system, as I understand it, rests on the principle of each for himself, but the co-operative movement rests on the principle of “each for all and all for each.” And, what is more, in accordance with the words of Him who

said : " A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another." I leave you to judge. I thank you also as a man. A Roman writer, in words often quoted, said : " I am a man, and nothing human is alien to me." This great principle uplifts a man, it forms the highest character. The character is poisoned by self-interest ; it is ennobled and uplifted when it realises its responsibility to us. Some time ago I was speaking to a man working in a country village, and he expressed to me the great difficulty he had in working amongst the people, because, he said, they had been inculcated years before by a schoolmaster who taught them that cynical maxim, " Never do owt for nowt unless tha' does it for thisen." I need not say such a maxim is degrading and dehumanising. Your maxim is " Do all you can for others and do it out of love." Not only so, but this great principle gladdens men's hearts, because it fills them with hope. You teach your people to look up. A man who lives to himself is left to despair, he seems so insignificant ; but when banded together in such a movement as yours you teach him to do something to reach the goal, and you not only uplift him but gladden him and fill him with hope. And so, as a man, I thank you for teaching this great lesson to the people of the world. And, lastly, I thank you as a citizen. There lies before us a painful time of reconstruction, but there is a glorious time to come, and I look forward to the dawn of a broader and nobler and ampler day such as has never dawned in this world before. And that spirit of reconstruction is to be carried out for the good of man ; and that spirit of comradeship which you are helping to teach peoples must get a very great place indeed. That spirit of comradeship is being taught us by our soldiers ; and you, to-day, in one of the direst days that ever dawned on the world, are helping by cultivating this spirit of co-operation to bring your nation and the world through.

Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, M.P., replied : It is difficult to speak, he said, after such splendid eloquence as that to which they had just listened. I shall not attempt to rival it ; I shall merely say a few words to thank his Lordship, on behalf of all of us who are working as co-operators, for the splendid tribute he paid to our movement and the beautiful ideal he held up for us. The Lord Bishop has spoken of a great principle that lies behind the movement, and has filled us with great hope and has quoted the words of a great Latin writer. Well, we believe nothing human is foreign to our principle. The principle of human help is applicable to all spheres of human life. We do not put it on as a matter of shopkeeping, or factory work, or running ships or mills, but we stand for it as a principle that runs all through life if the world is to be built up as it should be. The toast is, " The Co-operative Movement at Home and Abroad," and that naturally makes us think of the conflict with nations where co-operation is as fully developed as in our own country. It makes us think of our young men, the sons of co-operative fathers and mothers—the young Austrian co-operators—the men whose hands only four years ago we were only too glad to shake and with such earnestness. And yet the great conflict goes on, with all its terrible features. Must we ask ourselves whether these men have failed us, or has the principle itself failed, that principle of

human brotherhood which we seek to exemplify in the International Co-operative Alliance? If, indeed, that principle had failed us, then we should look upon the world as a great changed thing. But we do not believe that our great principle has failed. I am rather inclined to think that they have been misled by others who have given a false version of the fact. I know that has been so to a great extent. Meanwhile, we are doing our duty to our country, and they, however mistaken, are doing what they believe to be their duty. The time will come when we shall achieve victory for the great principles for which we are now fighting. We must all make it our one great purpose in life, that is—we have got to do it—to go back to the great principle of co-operation, not only at home and abroad, in one nation, but between nations, and carry it further than before. Whatever we may have done in winning military victories we should never win a real victory if we were not for the principles for which France, America, and the great democracies of the world stand—the democratic freedom of nations and the right of each nation to determine its own organisation. These principles must prevail at the end of the war. We believe good principles must necessarily prevail if men but do their part in working for them. Browning said :

My own hope is a sun will pierce
The blackest cloud earth ever stretched,
That what began best can't be worst,
Nor what God blessed once prove accurst.

Therefore, great principles of co-operation at home and abroad must, and will, prevail. They will outlast this war, and will rise supreme on the ashes and destruction that this war must leave behind.

To Mr. S. F. PERRY, J.P., the president of the Birkenhead Society, was entrusted the toast of "The Press." It is very fitting, he said, at this Jubilee Congress, that our thoughts should go back to our dear and revered old friend and colleague, George Jacob Holyoake, for the noble fight he made all through life for a free Press, and we, who owe so much to the Press, are only just beginning to realise what a glorious heritage we have fallen into through the services of our late friend and colleague. It has been said by Lord Beaverbrook, that in this great war the Press has been a greater power than even the Army itself, brings home to us the wonderful power and influence that can go through the channels of the Press. The policy of the old days, when the owner of a paper was also the editor and directed its policy, seems to have been swept away altogether. If the new order is to remain that those who control the paper control its policy, then I think it is our bounden duty to get more and more control of the Press as far as possible, so as to inculcate our policy into the hearts and minds of the people.

Mr. J. A. FLANAGAN (*Co-operative News*) acknowledged the compliment. We all know to-day, said he, the value of the Press. His Lordship knows that the Church itself attaches enormous power to the Press. Mr. Williams and the gentlemen who fall back on the goodwill of the electors know the value of the Press. The co-operative movement knows the value of the Press, and

we were told the other day in Parliament that the Prime Minister knows the value of the Press. The Bishop has given eloquent tribute to the co-operative movement for the service it renders to humanity, to Christianity, and to civilisation, and I think the co-operative Press occupies a similar position by spreading the principles which they had heard about that day. We hope that during the time the Congress sits here the Press will realise the importance of co-operation, and if the experience was the same as in other towns the local pressmen will have a different idea of the co-operative movement when they have finished than they had when they came.

THE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The usual Educational Conference was held on the Saturday afternoon, in the Central Hall, Mr. W. R. Rae presiding.

Professor F. HALL, M.A., B.Com. (Adviser of Studies), who was loudly applauded on rising to address the meeting on "Further Prospective Developments of Co-operative Education," said :

This afternoon my speech is rather more prosaic than the one I made last year, and yet I venture to say the range of subjects is no less important than that we discussed then.

A RETROSPECT.

You remember that last year I spoke to you about the subjects which were to be included in our forthcoming new programme. That programme has since been issued, and many of you have read it and found that it is our desire to increase the curriculum and lift the standard of study in the co-operative movement. We have introduced several courses of study, about which I spoke a year ago. We have not done all we desire, for circumstances have not been so favourable as, a year ago, we thought they would have been. But we have introduced some new subjects—such as the new courses on "The Story Re-told," and also correspondence courses on "The Welfare of the Group," "Co-operation and Social Problems," and "Co-operative Problems", and, in the early future, we hope to introduce additional subjects.

The new programme, issued at the beginning of the session, was by no means as complete as we intend it to be when circumstances are more favourable. We had to exclude a great many items on account of the shortage of paper and other causes. However, if in any way you can suggest how the usefulness of the programme can be increased, we shall be glad to hear.

NEXT SESSION'S PROGRAMME.

We have revised the scheme of scholarships, grants, and prizes, and full particulars will be announced in the programme for next session. I do not want to go into these changes in detail, but I want to mention one or two.

SUMMER SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS.

In future, there will be at least one summer-school scholarship granted in every subject in which an examination is held. We are very anxious that those students who show industry in the work of the many classes should have an opportunity of continuing their studies until the instruction is complete.

WEEK-END SCHOOLS.

One of the most notable developments of the past year has been the development of the week-end school—and I see a large number of friends here who have attended them and know the value of them. If you assist in extending the week-end school movement you will find that the members of your society will not only develop a greater knowledge of co-operation and its principles, but they will develop a stronger fellowship with their fellow-members and become better co-operators for this reason. The one-week school held at Birmingham in April was sufficiently successful to make us say that in the future the one-week schools must be further developed.

LECTURES TO COMMITTEES.

One innovation has been attempted during the past year; that is, lectures to committees. During the winter, a course of two lectures on management subjects was given to a group of management committees. This course was in the nature of an experiment; but it is hoped, when the war is over, that this service will be augmented. Our management committees are willing to discuss the problems with which they are faced, in a class-room, rather than in an open discussion at a meeting, where one in discussing is at a disadvantage.

ECONOMICS OF CO-OPERATION.

Some of the developments to be undertaken next session were outlined in my address last year. In the first place, we hope to develop the course in "Economics of Co-operation." So far we have not been able to cover the whole of the ground. The course has consisted of 24 lessons, and every year an increasing number of students comes forward. So far the course has been concerned with retail distribution; but students are now wanting to discuss the agricultural movement, and in the coming year we hope to develop our course in Economics of Co-operation by introducing a syllabus covering other phases of co-operative effort.

CO-OPERATIVE FINANCE.

We have already had this subject discussed, and in view of the growing importance of co-operative finance you will agree with me that we should introduce this subject into our curriculum at as early a date as we can.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

A course on International Co-operation is to be introduced during the coming year. It may seem that the present is an inopportune time; but

against that view I might say that never was there more need to study how people should co-operate internationally. It is for those people who believe that the world can be saved through co-operation to study the methods, so that they may spread their beliefs among other people. So far as text-books on International Co-operation are concerned, there is now a book in manuscript form, and we hope that next session this text-book will be available, and that we shall be able to organise classes in International Co-operation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

We hope that when preparing the programme of classes next year we shall have an opportunity of introducing another subject. I need hardly remind you of the Swansea Congress decision regarding political action. If this decision is to be followed up wisely, co-operators must know more about the organisation and machinery of government; and we are providing our students with an opportunity of studying them. To Mr. J. J. Clarke, of Liverpool, has been entrusted the duty of providing a text-book on "Local Government," and this will be available shortly.

HISTORY, THEORY, AND ORGANISATION OF EDUCATION.

A course on the "History, Theory, and Organisation of Education" will also be introduced during the coming year. There have been 20,000 students at the various classes organised in accordance with the Union's programme, and a large number of teachers have been required. What could be more important for our committee-men and teachers than to know something of the history, theory, and organisation of education? Very shortly, how soon it is difficult to say, we must do something to increase the facilities for the training of teachers. More than one committee has recently written to the Union pointing out the difficulty of establishing classes because of lack of teachers.

WOMEN'S CLASSES.

The classes for women in various parts of the United Kingdom are more and more successful every year. But we find that there are isolated students in certain quarters of the country who cannot take part, and we are introducing a correspondence course in the subjects included in the courses for the women's classes. A number of the women have gone through the complete programme, and to meet their needs we are next session adding a new course on "Women in Industry."

POLITICAL WORK.

In connection with the political work of the movement, a joint committee was recently established for organising educational work, and its scheme includes two-day and one-day schools, as well as local classes and lectures. These two-day schools will be attended by those who afterwards will be likely to become teachers of classes in political subjects or lecturers for societies.

TECHNICAL CLASSES.

Technical education is suffering from war conditions. Yet because of that, there is no reason why we should not prepare for the time when facilities will be available. When the war is over, the need will be greater than ever for trained salesmen and managers, and therefore the committee, in looking to the post-war conditions, are recognising this necessity, and various courses are being revised. In the book-keeping classes, for example, it will, in the near future, be possible for the student to get through the course in two years instead of three, as in the past. A revision is made in the case of the Arithmetic section, and students will now require to pass an examination in arithmetic before securing a certificate in any stage of book-keeping. The examination in arithmetic will be held independently of the book-keeping examination, and not as a part of the examination in Stage I., as at present.

SALESMEN, MANAGERS, AND SECRETARIES.

We are also revising and specialising the salesmen's and managers' courses. One subject of study will be "Foodstuffs," for which a text-book is in course of preparation. The secretaries' course will soon become a two-years' course. Most people who know the present syllabus will recognise the amount of ground it covers, and it is almost impossible for a potential secretary to assimilate sufficient knowledge in the time previously given. By extending the period of study to two years it will be possible to cover the present syllabus more thoroughly and add one or two subjects of importance to secretaries.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

In connection with the technical classes, it has been decided to offer twelve scholarships of £25 each, in order to enable prospective managers and secretaries to spend two or three months in whole-time study of management and secretarial subjects. We want our co-operative movement to be something more than a joint-stock concern, and our officials to be more than buyers and sellers and keepers of books. Therefore, this scheme of the Central Education Committee will provide opportunities for a number of our potential secretaries and managers to study more intensively the problems of management in the co-operative movement. These scholarships will be tenable at Holyoake House or other approved centre. I hope you, in your societies, will recognise the value of the work those men have done to gain a scholarship. Whilst the Central Education Committee may be providing these scholarships, we do not want a man to refuse a scholarship because he is married and has a family and cannot leave home without further help. We want the societies to do what they can to supplement the scholarships and to help these men, and women, to take advantage of the facilities provided. There must be the heartiest co-operation of societies with the Union if the best results are to be achieved.

LECTURES TO SECRETARIES.

Lectures for secretaries have been given for some years past, and they have been very successful. Unfortunately, at the present time, through the difficulty of railway travelling, they have had to be suspended; but the number of these lectures will be increased as soon as the war is over and circumstances permit.

LECTURES AND CLASSES FOR COMMITTEE-MEN.

We hope, too, that the lectures to committees will also be developed; and here, again, we depend on the committees for the heartiest co-operation. If your committees feel that there is nothing to be learned about co-operation, it is no use our appealing to them; but if they do not, then we ask them to take advantage of the Union's services and co-operate with the Central Education Committee in arranging those lectures on the problems of co-operative management. I do not think I do an injustice to the committees in their peculiar position when I say that many of those who occupy positions on committees reach their seats when they are getting on for middle age, and few have had an opportunity of studying business questions—finance, business organisation, or other subjects. Yet when they reach committee-rooms they have to decide questions of great moment to their societies, and it seems to be the duty of the Co-operative Union to provide opportunities for these men and women who are willing to acquire the necessary knowledge. Therefore, I hope you will do what you can to co-operate with the Union in organising these lectures for committees. It has been suggested, and I hope myself that the suggestion will be adopted, that the week-end school idea should be extended and employed for meeting the needs of management committees and officials; in other words, that there should be officials' week-ends and committees' week-ends. I am sure, too, that we can do with all the companionship it is possible to foster by means of week-end schools.

RESEARCH WORK

I want to say a few words in regard to Research Work. The recommendation of the Survey Committee with regard to the Blandford Scholarships will come into operation next year. That recommendation is that out of the Blandford Fund there should be granted two scholarships for research purposes. These will be tenable at Holyoake House, or some other approved centre. We want more light on co-operative problems, and we look to our research students to help us. In addition to the Blandford Scholarships, the Central Board accepted the recommendation of the Central Education Committee to celebrate this Jubilee Congress by establishing two Jubilee Research Scholarships of the value of £25 each, to be granted annually; and it is our hope that every year we shall get two enterprising young men or young women to Holyoake House or elsewhere, where for two or three months they will be able to give undivided attention to research work upon some question of co-operative importance. It is our duty to control ideas. Those who control

the generation and dissemination of ideas and knowledge control the trend which affairs take; and so long as we are content to be mere imitators of other people we shall have to fall behind. When we have made up our mind to develop our own ideas and have an originality of our own, and to give time and money to the initiation of ideas, we may say: "We do not need to follow other people; we can make tracks for ourselves." But we do not want our research work to be confined only to those who gain these scholarships. We want to see young men and women in various parts of the country undertaking research work for themselves; and we want all the societies which can, to inaugurate what methods they may think suitable and pursue this work. There are our

WEEK-END AND SUMMER AND OTHER SCHOOLS,

which have already gained a great success. To those students who have been at a summer school I need say nothing by way of commendation of the schools. To those who have not, I say: "Come once, and no further recommendation will be necessary." We have this year arranged six schools. That number is by no means sufficient for $3\frac{3}{4}$ million co-operators. We ought to have at least a dozen summer schools going. If we are to secure this number, it will depend on the assistance given by the local education committees. You can do a great deal by making schools known to members and granting scholarships to members to attend the schools. Attend yourself, and thus show an example to others. Send some of your education committee to the summer schools, and they will come back with greater enthusiasm. I am not merely taking the pose of the advertising agent, but I have received so many proofs of it that I say that more than one committee has developed its educational work merely as a result of the stimulus and assistance received from the summer schools. If you want to develop your educational work, get into touch with a summer school and get some of the sunshine that radiates from it. The time will come soon when every educational committee will have to have a centre of its own to hold week-end and summer schools. And the sooner you strengthen your belief and establish these centres the better, and the sooner you will relieve the Central Education Committee of some of its duties and let it give attention to other work. I am looking forward, not only to twelve schools, but to twenty schools in the very near future. I hope, too, that they will not be confined to England, Scotland, and Ireland, but will extend to France and other continental countries, where our students will not only have lectures, but see something of co-operation at work in some country other than their own. There is no limit to the development of this work. During the last twelve months there have been thirty to forty week-end schools in the United Kingdom, and there is every likelihood there will be about one hundred "week-ends" during the next twelve months. The Central Education Committee have prepared a pamphlet on the organisation of week-end schools, and no committee need be in ignorance on this subject. The time is coming

when we must have permanent homes for this kind of work. You all know that at Plymouth there is a holiday home, and this home has been utilised for summer schools and week-end schools. The Nelson Society has a farm where the house is used for similar purposes. Many societies are buying farms, and why should not they do the same? We are looking forward to the development of these guest houses.

PROPOSED CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE.

Soon we hope to have our own co-operative college—not only one, but many. And here I want to carry to you a suggestion that societies, when they are considering what form of war memorial they should establish to commemorate the lives and work of their members and employees who have fallen in the war, should consider the desirability of establishing and helping to maintain a co-operative college. That would be one of the best methods of ensuring a lasting memorial.

YOUNG PEOPLE.

In regard to young people, it has not been possible to do much, as our staff is limited and their work is considerable at present. The recommendations of the Survey Committee give an indication of the lines to be followed as soon as circumstances permit. I want to urge upon you the importance of bringing young people into touch with your societies, by cycling, rambling, and social clubs. You should do everything you can to link them up with your society—their society in the future. At the present time, the Central Education Committee is considering the formation of organisations to link the young people to the movement.

NEW BOOKS.

A handbook for teachers is published this week. This book, "Through Play to Understanding," is intended to be of assistance to our teachers who want to conduct their young people's class on more modern lines. In addition, there are in preparation a book on International Co-operation and small primers on Co-operation in Denmark and Ireland, and Mr. Lucas is preparing one on Co-operation in Scotland. There are also in preparation other books on such subjects as Economics of Co-operation.

ORGANISATION.

A Co-operators' Educational League has been established, and we hope every co-operator who has the interests of co-operation at heart will link up with it. Its purpose is to secure a register of all those who really care for co-operative education and wish to be kept in touch with our work. Its magazine is the *Co-operative Educator*. The subscription is only a shilling a year. If we are to be successful in our educational work it is important that we should have a register of those in the movement who are interested, for we want to know those whom we should circularise and upon whom we

can rely for support. The work I have outlined will require a considerable enlargement of the teaching staff at Holyoake House. We cannot do all we have planned so long as there are only two persons on the permanent teaching staff, for the programme demands the employment of itinerant teachers as well as a bigger staff at Holyoake House.

THE FUNCTION OF HOLYOAKE HOUSE.

We want you to look upon Holyoake House as a place to assist you, and to feel that if you have any problems to face you can turn to it for assistance in solving them. We want you to take our programme and adopt it where possible and carry out the suggestions in regard to classes, lectures, and week-end schools and other work, so that we may, through you, reach the mass of the members. We have taken up educational work, not in the spirit taken up outside, for we have a different view in regard to education. We do not look upon it as a means of obtaining for Johnnie or Tommy the opportunity of earning a few shillings more per week. We want you to look upon education as providing fitness for service in the students' future life; and we want them to realise that only through co-operation will they get the best out of life.

THE DISCUSSION.

Mr. W. R. RAE, in opening the discussion, asked the question: Whose fault is it there is a decided lack of teachers? Have you tried yourself to fill in that gap? Oh, you tell me, "I am not a teacher!" How do you know until you try? Do you think teachers are made? No, they are born; and you may be just the teacher that is wanted to fill in that gap, if you only try. It is a little unfortunate that members of education committees do not look for latent talent. I noticed that when mention was made of song and dance in connection with the children's classes, a good number of you smiled, as though thinking, "What a piece of folly!" Yes through the foolishness of the world you acquire wisdom. Why should you smile? In the young the feet are light; in the young the hearts are young. The young learn more of the kitchen furniture by butting up against it. Let the youngsters dance and sing and play themselves into knowledge; and you join with them, and you will find the method referred to by Professor Hall as one not to smile at, but one to rejoice in.

Mr. E. R. S. MUNDY (Devon District Association): I am sure the clear and concise way in which Professor Hall has introduced the programme is most gratifying. It is encouraging to all education committees in the movement to know that such a scheme is being evolved. Two or three things struck me as being extremely helpful and practical. The first thing is with regard to the subject of local government. Last winter, several of us discussed this subject, but there was no leader for this particular class. However, about a dozen workmen met on Sunday mornings and discussed the subject among themselves. We discussed the matter again only during this past fortnight,

and we determined to take up the subject in a proper way this coming winter; and we shall be able to go back and say there is a proper book in preparation. The second point is the classes for women. I am quite sure the women in our guilds are actually engaged in true educational work.

A WOMAN DELEGATE: I hope he is not going to criticise.

Mr. MUNDY: I am going to praise the Women's Guild as a most excellent and useful organisation. But we have not always got an intelligent president or leader to hand to organise these classes for women. If you can give us some of the leading points you wish us to take up we can set to work. Now, with regard to the lectures available to members of management committees—I am the chairman of our local co-operative society, and am very much interested in co-operative education. But in these days of food control every member is fully occupied in regard to food registration matters; but, apart from that, we recognise the necessity for the Education Committee getting ready, so that when the clouds are passed we shall be able to take up educational work. I think it would be better for committee-men to attend, as far as possible, week-end classes, because they are able to associate recreation and the rest holiday with education. Further, if you could bring the week-end schools nearer our own doors, instead of their being forty or fifty or a hundred miles away, you would have a better chance of attracting members of management committees. We also want to deal with prospective members of committees, so that they can be educated and trained to prove themselves worthy of a seat on the committee they intend to occupy. I am not going to preach what I have not practised—all aspiring as well as present members of committees should do something to qualify for their positions. Professor Hall has referred to the shortage of staff. Well, I was hoping that we were nearing the time when the Union would be able to send out travelling educational organisers to societies that are in difficulties, and scarcely know how to proceed with the little funds they have at their disposal. What they want is not advice from Holyoake House, but somebody on the spot to show them how to spend their money to the best advantage.

Mr. S. F. WHITLOCK (Stratford, London) pleaded for conjoint action between the Education Committees of different co-operative societies. "I do not know one member of the Woolwich Education Committee," he said, "except the secretary, because we have not had the chance of getting in touch with one another." Now, with regard to week-end classes, when are we going to have a Holyoake House or similar institution in London? And if we are going into research work, well, the British Museum is the centre of research work—oh, you may laugh, but the stuff is there if you want to get it. We shall not go on with the English system of muddling through! One education committee should be linked up with another education committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Let me answer your questions at once. Why cannot you call committees together in conference? That is the way we have done in the Northern Section; and it has been very highly satisfactory. As to

the British Museum—the researches there are mainly concerned with the dead, and co-operative research is mainly concerned with the living.

Mr. W. Dow (Dunfermline) : I do not want Holyoake House in London. I find it bad enough travelling down from Dunfermline to Liverpool. All the time Professor Hall was speaking I have been sitting in nettles thinking he was going to finish up his address without raising it to that high level which he attained towards the end. What is wanted is that Englishmen should learn to know more of Wordsworth and Tennyson ; Scotchmen of Scott and Burns ; Irishmen of their ancients. I hope Professor Hall will not forget that. Possibly we would not have had any war to-day if the Germans had known a little more of their classics. I hope Professor Hall will throw in a little bit of the classics as he is passing along.

Mr. T. M. YOUNG (Eccles) : I want to say that during the whole of the time Professor Hall was speaking I was delighted, and never once felt disappointed. The programme laid down to-day is so important that one cannot take one subject out of it without endangering the whole. The subject of co-operative finance is one of the most important that has been outlined. If the course suggested had been suggested ten years ago instead of to-day, instead of twelve scholarships of £25 you would have had 1,200 scholarships. The co-operative movement never needed it more than to-day. With international co-operation I am in hearty agreement, especially when one takes into consideration the enormous waste going on at the present time, which could have been avoided if our forefathers had had international co-operation. The sooner we co-operate in trade and have brotherhood among the nations, acting in association for mutual assistance, the sooner the terrible events we are experiencing now will be a thing of the past. When we consider the serious position the movement found itself in through not being able to get representation on food control committees—a matter of vital importance—we must realise the great need for exercising our influence in public affairs. The sooner we get our class in local government in order, the sooner we shall have power in our hands, and the sooner we shall be able to govern ourselves and not be governed by others who have no love for us. As a Manchester man, I agree there is no better centre for Holyoake House than Manchester, but I am very much disappointed to hear that all students should be sent there. I suggest that the Education Committee keep their Holyoake House there, but take their students' centres to Scotland and other places where wanted. I want to offer another suggestion : it is time that the whole question of the overlapping in the work of education committees was dealt with—for one reason, committees are being absolutely starved for want of funds. Your programme is large, but the need for it is larger still.

Mr. REES (Swansea) : It is with great pleasure I rise, as a young co-operator, to try to emphasise Professor Hall's remarks. I think there is need in these days to show to our fellow-co-operators that the principal object of co-operative education is to lead to better service. I was very pleased with the note of idealism. There was a practical feature about the whole

address; and here I am at one with our friend, that we need to show the superannuated grocer and the antiquated ironmonger that we have a true ideal of education—that we are not out merely to make better workmen of our children, but to produce fitness for a higher service. I cannot say with our friend from Scotland that I have sat here disappointed with any point of the speech. We in South Wales, in regard to getting children to run and play and sing, have tried it in connection with our co-operative children's choirs; and we feel that in teaching a child to understand through play, through natural movement, that we have established a big link with the movement.

Mr. DEAN (Clayton-le-Moors): I want to ask a question regarding the programme for the juniors from fourteen to eighteen years. We have had some trouble after going through "Our Story," as there was nothing to take up their attention until they got to some advanced stage of work. I suggest that societies should co-operate with other societies in the neighbourhood. By that means we have been able to run junior employees' classes and book-keeping classes. It has been said that too much money is being spent on entertainments. My society has found that money spent on entertainments in the winter time has given a large number of members and their wives the opportunity of obtaining co-operative knowledge. We have had a speaker on some subject of co-operation during the concerts. If we do away with concerts, then we have no other means of gaining their interest.

Mr. S. F. PERRY (Birkenhead): I want to emphasise for a moment the need for a better understanding and a better education on the part of those of us who sit as members of management committees. It is extremely difficult to get up a healthy financial discussion among the members of the board of management. What I am concerned about is the future of the movement. It seems to me that in addition to the children, the men and the women who take part in the actual work and of the movement can get a better conception of the real problems of life through educational effort. Now, as to British Museum research, those matters really only affect the dead; and may I remind our friend from Scotland that nearly all the writers of the classics are dead! The trouble at the moment is that so many societies up and down the country are faced with financial difficulties. Let us get back to the old 2½ per cent, and have a better understanding between the management and the education committees, because it is only by united effort that our education policy can be advanced.

The CHAIRMAN: I will now call upon Professor Hall to reply to—

Several speakers rose from the body of the hall to speak.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I cannot give way. I always keep my word.

Mrs. PENNY (Sheffield): I only want to ask a question.

The CHAIRMAN: Oh, well, put your question.

Mrs. PENNY: Is it possible for a woman to have something to say before Professor Hall replies?

The CHAIRMAN : Well, you have got it in in your clever way. I will bow to the inevitable and accept defeat. So, go on.

Mrs. PENNY : I do think that women ought to do more thinking about such an important question as education. I was just wondering whether or not the majority of us are making a mistake in our thoughts on education. I have heard many people speak glibly of co-operation, but they never seem to practise it in their own lives. One has only to sit five minutes and think to realise that the co-operative movement is built up on most magnificent self-help. If only twenty of us would go from this meeting imbued with the right spirit, we would do more to revolutionise the future of Society than by joining any section here or there. What we have to do is to try to put the interests of all before the interests of self. We women, let us keep the young hearts clean by teaching our children through example. It is not in the greatness of movements but in the young and simple people that the future lies.

PROFESSOR HALL REPLIES.

Professor HALL said : I am sorry I have disappointed Mr. Dow. We have to deal with materialistic things sometimes; but it is not a case of losing sight of what is beyond, of our vision! We are trying to realise things of to-day as a preparation for the things of to-morrow. Mr. Mundy welcomed the book on Local Government, and I hope it will be used, because if we are to be successful in political activities it will be by showing that we can do the job as well as anybody else, if not better. With regard to the classes for women, I think I can say to Mr. Mundy that if there is any desire to organise any of these classes, we have a syllabus upon which those classes can be held. I quite agree with the suggestion as to educating prospective committee members; if we only knew that they would be on a committee three years hence it would be very convenient. With regard to educational organisers we are in agreement on this matter. It is merely a question of money and time, and if societies will rally round the Union and provide the necessary funds I am quite sure the Central Education Committee will assist societies in this respect. In answer to Mr. Whitlock, I may say it is quite open to his committee to write to other committees and suggest a joint conference with them without waiting for the Central Committee to take the initiative. He asks when will there be a Holyoake House in London?—I am sure everyone wishes there were one in every town in the country. There will be one in London as soon as London societies extend their work so much as to make a Holyoake House inevitable. Mr. Dow asks a question on literature. We all recognise the value of literature, but I hope not all quite in the same spirit as Germany has done: there they dissect and analyse it—they do not use it for its inspirational or moral teaching. I was glad to hear Mr. Young, an old teacher for the Union, and I am glad he recommended classes in co-operative finance. With regard to the scholarships being in Manchester, if some other place is found better, then it will be selected. But there are some

good points in Manchester even yet. That the work of our education committees could be well overhauled I quite agree. With regard to the observations as to some education committees expending their money on social entertainment, I think we ought to get all we possibly can in the way of entertainment under co-operative auspices, but there is no reason why it should be called serious education. Mr. Rees touched on the higher aspects, and I agree with him. In reply to Mr. Dean, I may say that we have now a strong organisation of our young people between 14 and 16 years of age. Mr. Perry emphasises the necessity for having educational classes in London. Again, I can only say it depends upon the magnitude of the work which London societies undertake. If the demand exists, I do not think the Co-operative Union will be long in providing the building. On the question of the education grant, we think that the grants in future should be a minimum of a shilling per member, and not be dependent on profits. If the profits go down the education grant goes down. We are beginning to see that profits was a wrong basis for educational grants. Societies that had the greatest difficulties and needed education the most frequently got the least grant, because their profits were low. We must base the education grant on the number of members in the future, and not on the amount of profits. We must recognise that education is a necessity, not a luxury; something to be provided out of the income, and not out of the profits. Now, in respect to Mrs. Penny's remarks, we want economics to be considered in a less narrow manner than in the past. We not only want to know how a man makes his income, but what his contribution to life is—not a particular individual's quickest way of making a fortune, but how the welfare of the people is best promoted. Mrs. Penny is quite right about the educational attitude. After all, education in the outside world is principally concerned with helping young people to get on or urging them to be educated in order to compete with Germany or some other country. The education that is needed in this world is not to make us more efficient to compete with one another, but to co-operate with one another; and it is our duty to spread that view of education. And the sooner this type of education is attempted in national educational work, as well as in the co-operative movement, the sooner we can hope for better relations at home and abroad as well.





FIRST DAY OF CONGRESS.

MONDAY, 20th MAY, 1918.

MORNING SITTING.

The Congress proceedings opened in the Central Hall, Liverpool, promptly at 9-30 on Monday morning. The scene was an animated one, the floor of the hall being literally packed with delegates, whilst the spacious gallery was also well filled. Amongst the many interesting visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Daudé-Bancel and Mr. Waseige, who had travelled specially from France.

Mr. E. R. WOOD (Ton), the retiring president, extended a hearty welcome to the delegates. He said : Let me at the outset extend to all visitors and delegates a hearty welcome, on behalf of the Central Board, to this Liverpool Congress. I hope that your stay will be a pleasant one, and that you will carry away agreeable recollections of Liverpool and district. I think that you will agree with me that the appearance of Congress this morning at its fiftieth anniversary looks healthy and robust, with every indication of great hopes for the future. My duty this morning is an exceptionally pleasant one. I have to introduce the Deputy-Lord Mayor of Liverpool. There was a time in the history of our movement when the civic authorities did not recognise the importance of our movement, and there was no civic reception.

To-day, the movement has progressed and developed, and every city and town visited vie with each other in extending to the Co-operative Congress a hearty welcome. Liverpool was not backward in this respect. We heard on Saturday that the Lord Mayor had had to go away from home for his health's sake, but he has deputed the Deputy-Lord Mayor (Alderman Mather) to extend to us a civic welcome. During the last fifty years the movement has developed, and has entered into the life of about a quarter of the population of the United Kingdom. It is gratifying to see on the platform one of the pioneers of co-operation, who took a leading part in inaugurating the first Congress, in the person of Mr. Edward Owen Greening. He appears to be renewing his youth as time goes on. It gives me great pleasure in asking Alderman Mather to give us a civic welcome.

The DEPUTY-LORD MAYOR : In the first place I must apologise for the absence of the Lord Mayor. As I stated on Saturday, he is unable, through reasons of health, to be present at your gathering to-day. His Lordship has had a very strenuous time for months past, and is taking advantage of the Whitsuntide holidays to have a short respite from his labours at the Town Hall. In his name and in the name of the citizens of Liverpool I offer you a warm and hearty welcome to this city, and wish you every success upon your deliberations. It is, I understand, nineteen years since you had your annual Congress here, and if I remember right the co-operative movement had not before that been very extensive in this district, but the holding of Congress here seems to have brought the question of co-operation prominently before the residents in the city, with the result that the movement has increased here considerably since that date. I am sure that you will not expect from me a speech on the co-operative movement; I am afraid that I should fail if I were to try. I should be preaching to the converted; when I preach I only preach to the unconverted. It is a subject on which the most recently appointed member will possess more knowledge than I have. All that I can say is that I realise, as everybody else does, the value of co-operation. Before I retired I belonged to the profession of the law; we believe in co-operation there. The great war in which we are engaged is, after all, a question of alliance and co-operation. One great race is fighting against another, and we realise that in war, as in peace, unity is strength. Co-operation brings success. Your organisation, I understand, has grown up from small beginnings, and I know that it is still growing. You may in various places hold your yearly meetings and deliberations, but I venture to say that in no city or town will you receive a better or more hearty welcome than in this great port. We have many interesting features in the city, and although I am satisfied that you have come on business still there must be a few intervals when you can visit our landing stage, our docks, our art gallery, our great classical St. George's Hall, the Town Hall, and our public parks and buildings. I hope that you will have fine weather, and that after you have finished your labours you will carry back to your various districts the goodwill of this city. In Liverpool the co-operative movement is now, I believe,

strong, and supplies the public need. I have no doubt that the result of this Congress will be to still further strengthen the movement here. We wish you well; we wish you success; and we wish you prosperity for all that concerns the public good. I hope that you will kindly excuse my leaving at once as I am wanted in a few minutes at the Police Court. You all know that when one is wanted at that tribunal the sooner one responds to that call the better, or all the worse for one. Again, in the name of the City of Liverpool allow me to wish you "God-speed."

Mr. E. R. WOOD: We are thankful to the Deputy-Lord Mayor for extending a civic welcome to Liverpool. As the Deputy-Lord Mayor has to go to the police court at once I ask the Congress to extend their heartiest thanks to their notable visitor.

The delegates signified their approval with a hearty chorus of "Ayes."

The Chairman, following the time-honoured custom, presented to the Deputy-Lord Mayor a beautifully bound volume of "Industrial Co-operation" and a Co-operative Wholesale Society "Annual" as a memento of the occasion.

Alderman MATHER: I thank you for your kind vote of thanks, though it was perfectly unnecessary. It has been a great pleasure to me to come here. If I want a character when I get to the other place I will refer them to you.

The CHAIRMAN: I have another and a very pleasant duty to perform before I retire, and that is to introduce the President-elect to this Congress. I hardly think it requires any words of mine to do so. All co-operators know Mr. Thomas Killon. He has been for a quarter of a century a member of the Co-operative Wholesale Board, and has succeeded to the chairmanship after our dear old friend, Mr. Shillito. That speaks volumes for the opinion which co-operators and the Co-operative Wholesale Society Board have of him. We all know Mr. Killon as a man of intelligence, capacity, and character, and when we have a man of this kind at the head of an institution there is no doubt of its success. I sincerely hope you will extend to Mr. Killon, as the President, the same kindly feeling that you extended to me last year at Swansea. I have the greatest pleasure in asking Mr. Killon to deliver his inaugural address.

Mr. KILLON, who was very warmly welcomed—the Congress vigorously applauding for little some time—turning to Mr. Wood, said: I am sure I shall receive from you, as the ex-president, every sympathy and support; and the experience you gained at the Swansea Congress will be most valuable to me at the present time. I hope to receive from the Congress generally their support and sympathy, and that I shall be able to discharge my duty satisfactorily. I may say, he proceeded, addressing the Congress, that I want you to quite understand that this is the first time I have put the views I hold into writing. That is not my method of addressing an audience, but it was pointed out that perhaps it would be just as well if I put my views into consecutive order on paper.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The greatest and the most diabolical war in the world's history is still with us, still permeating practically every home in Europe with its barbarous influence, stained with the blood and suffering not only of soldiers and sailors, but of innocent children and unprotected women. It may seem at times that we are taking this gigantic crime of civilisation with reprehensible indifference, but that, perhaps, is because one's ideas and emotions are baffled by the unprecedented human butchery and wickedness into which we have been plunged in an age when it was assumed that war between leading civilisations had become impossible. How can we forget or forgive those upon whom the terrible responsibility rests ?

Wars are caused chiefly by military ambition, commercial greed, or the social madness of a comparatively few people to dominate the civilised world without consulting the wishes and rights of the people. The effect of the lust and vanity of these comparatively few rulers on vast numbers of men, women, and children, cannot be measured by mere phrases. For a time it has stifled social progress, economic betterment, and industrial development whether on individual or co-operative lines. Its gross, evil influence has affected every citizen in Europe, whether it be in respect of food, shelter, education, freedom of speech, or the capacity for advancement in the material and refined arts and practices of peace. It has disfigured communities with relentless destruction, and checked, for the time being, the progress of the human race towards the mutual achievements of the people for which we in this assembly, and our predecessors, have stood, fought, and sacrificed in our system of co-operation, for nigh on one hundred years. The future of civilisation, especially that embracing the rights and freedom of the workers must be controlled by the people for the people. How are we to achieve this just and desirable result ? Shall it be on the principle of each for all and all for each, or on the policy—which is not a principle—of each man's hand, energy, and brains against the other ? Is

co-operation going to be a universal principle and practice in the world of trade, commerce, and ethics, or only a sentimental argument? If so, the first essential we ought to secure is unity amongst ourselves, unity in our purpose, unity in our material and moral aims.

We may realise, as we must realise from the startling revelations of Prince Lichnowsky and others, that the Prussianism of Germany is the military pest of Europe against which we must safeguard the welfare of the people. But shall we be safe when we have accomplished this—that is, shall we be safe from injustice, inequality, and exploitation? Were we safe from these forms of social incompetence before the outbreak of the blood and iron policy of Prussia? Shall we not still have in our own country—as in all countries—self-seeking vested interests, the policy of whose operations is to infest us with social sores—vested interests which we must oppose and conquer by the increasing power and the unquestionable right of collective action before we enter that realm of justice and equity which we as co-operators have striven to attain for more than two generations.

What has been one of the lessons taught to us by the war? Is it not the same lesson that all history should have taught us? Is it not the lesson that our lives are held and enslaved too much by private interests and that as long as we do not possess, and cannot control, the means of life, we cannot escape the grinding clutches of the few vested interests that hold their hands upon the daily requirements of the wage-earning population?

A mere handful of the world's financiers who, by means of the telegraph or cable, can operate at once in all the principal capitals of the world, mostly control the vast supplies of the earth and influence the fixing of prices. They are perhaps more co-operative in action for themselves than we are for ourselves. They are more jealous about their policy of self-enrichment than we are about our co-operative policy for the good of all in common. They exercise great power, and force their influence upon States and Governments. The small rings of vested interests have had a more disastrous effect upon the homes of the people than the war itself. Their operations have encircled the world. Their

machinery for combined action is more precise and more workable than ours. Unless we can place ourselves where they are—in the ruling channels of the world's trade—we shall never be free to complete the commonwealth we are building against the commercial and economic ideas they practise. They have the banks at their command. The world's markets are part of their organisation. They have the power to regulate supplies of commodities and fix prices. They seek strength by combination and federation. The political economy they embrace is the political economy which helps to maintain their hold upon the necessities of the people at their own price. I can only hint at their place and power in society: to deal adequately with the subject one would have to write a large volume, so intimately are they associated with the marketing processes of every staple commodity. They have created for themselves a variety of rings through which every article must pass from the grower to the consumer, and every stage of the process forms a subtle excuse for profit-making. They are ever ready to band themselves together in a solid phalanx against any encroachment of the co-operative movement. We cannot touch wheat, or butter, or sugar, or tea, or anything else essential to life without having to meet their claims, pay their self-created dues, and give unto them—although they toil nor spin not—that which under a co-operative system would be bestowed upon the consumer. It is still fresh in the minds, surely, of many of our members how they tried to confuse and defeat us by an amazing series of plans and counter-plans on the London Tea Market. And this effort to overawe us is only one instance of others we have met with or shall have to meet with, whenever we try to secure a prominent footing in any market in a staple commodity requisite to our needs.

Their concentration of power is growing. It would be unwise not to recognise it. We find forms of federation gradually increasing in wealth and strength in all sections of trade and commerce, Small unions of capitalists are joining larger unions, larger unions are joining federations, and federations are being welded into greater federations. Co-operative action is spreading in the form of powerful monopolies in the mining, engineering, textile, and

other leading industries. Railway companies, shipping combines, and commercial banks are amalgamating. It is impossible for the amalgamations of trade, commerce, transport, and banking to be concentrating their forces, and accumulating extensive funds out of war profits in the way they are without our position and outlook as co-operators being seriously affected. We have preached ideals and urged ethical considerations in industry and commerce as no other force on earth has done. But are we to assume that mere theories of ideals and ethics will stand in the world against the solid construction and reconstruction of those who now govern that without which we should be useless—that is the means of production, exchange, and distribution? It is because we are not great enough in these material things that we are the economic victims of those who have them in their possession. Without this possession ideals cannot be sustained in practice, or, at any rate, cannot be effectively applied to our daily lives.

Therefore, let us pursue the material and enrich it when and where we can with the ideal. Let us dignify labour and manufacture, extend our ownership of fields and mines and factories. Let us believe, as co-operators, there can be no form of reconstruction after the war that does not lead people to the collective possession and control of the essentials of life. To be running after other forms of reconstruction will lead to disappointment. It is our co-operative object not to reshuffle the existing state of society, but to replace it. To do this we must extend our ownership of industry, and whilst supporting the increasing cry of "Back to the land," we must do what we can to get the land back to the people!

What has been the position of the co-operative movement during the war? The impression may be running through the minds of some of my hearers that the Co-operative Wholesale Societies—the trading and commercial body of the movement—has not done all that it might have done to check the activities of those whose custom has been to preach patriotism, but, in practice, to exploit the consumer, to pay income tax, excess profits, and super-tax out of the consumer's pocket, or from the increased cost of living. But the day will come when, I hope, the grim

fight which the Co-operative Wholesale Societies has had to wage with the Government and vested interests must be narrated in its true colours. All the wit, education, and the unity and power of vested interests have been combined against our honest appeals on behalf of the co-operative wage-earners. Our success has been thwarted by subtle manœuvring, of which our members have no conception.

Despite our justifiable claims, our power, our organisation and experience as distributors of the people's foods, backed by economic methods, we have never been properly recognised. We have been asked to serve the Government and the country in an advisory capacity, but not to take a lead, or force a lead, in which we should have been justified by the widespread existence of our organisation to deal uniformly and adequately with one quarter of the total population of the country. Why have we not been justly recognised? Whilst we may rail at the operations of the vested interests to defeat our co-operative principle by urging upon the Government a co-operative system of their own, there has not been the cohesion there might have been in our ranks. Whilst our trading enemies have spoken to the Government with one voice, we have spoken with several, drawn from various sections of the movement. Frequently, where they have been co-operative in their own interests, we have been divided in ours. Is it not possible to create a central authority in our midst, which, whilst being able to speak on behalf of the entire movement in national affairs, could command obedience from the whole of our organisation.

As far as the Boards of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies are concerned, we have done our best to help our country in its national crisis, as we ought to do. But we have not been heeded or recognised by the Government, and not always by our own societies in the way we claim we ought to have been. We have freely offered men, finance, and our entire machinery to assist in distribution in a way that would have kept down prices. Even where our skilfully-planned proposals have won the approval of various Ministers of the Realm, they have been finally ignored. Why? Is it not because the real Government or control of the country

is mostly invisible, and largely in the hands of great vested interests representing the trading, the commercial, and the money-making markets? So far, we have refrained from telling the whole of the story in respect to war-time trading relations, in order not to hamper the nation and our allies in pursuing this war of European liberty to a victorious conclusion. But, when the bloodshed has ceased, we trust that some of our writers will not hesitate to tell it justly and plainly, as a lesson to the co-operative democracy of this and other countries.

The individual system of trade and commerce is bad at any time for the mass of the people. It is bad in peace times. It is infinitely worse during the great war. In fact, this war has been too big for it. It has broken down, and has been replaced by State action on the one hand, and, on the other hand, by a form of co-operation not comparable with that which we practise daily. Our principle has been imitated and stolen to bolster up vested interests that had failed to serve the country for the time being, but who will endeavour to reinforce their policy of individualism on the restoration of peace. Individualism has been suspended for the time being, and individualists have become co-operators for the same ends they acted as individualists, which was to exist on labour and the consumer by means of private interest, profit, commission, and usury.

The curse of all countries at all times is the enormous accumulation of wealth in a few hands.

In indisputable proof of this we need only to take a few plain figures. Prior to the war the national income of the United Kingdom was roundly estimated at two thousand one hundred million pounds sterling (£2,100,000,000). How was this divided? About one-half, it was computed by Sir I. G. Chiozza-Money, was enjoyed by 12 per cent of the entire population. More than one-third of it was enjoyed by about 3 per cent of the population. In other figures, it was estimated that in 1908, out of a population of 44 million persons, 1,400,000 received two-thirds of the entire income of the United Kingdom, and 5,500,000 persons (reckoned by the family) received a sum about equal to that obtained by the rest of the 38,500,000 persons. If this is not an example of glaring

inequality of distribution that ought to rouse the masses into co-operative action, what is ? How many evils in the form of waste and vanity is it the cause of ? Economists have suggested that if some of the vast wealth accumulated by the few could be distributed among the many by a fresh system of society, to what greater extent would it be expended on useful things, and vastly increase the production and wealth of the nation ? Is there any system of industry and commerce that would level the distribution and use of the entire income better and surer than co-operation, wherein the fields, factories, workshops, &c., by which wealth is created, would be collectively and equitably owned ?

The economic state of the United Kingdom is similar to that of other countries. Take the United States, the land of the mighty dollar, which is a new country compared to ours. But, whether new or old, the same conditions of deplorable inequality manifest themselves, and the same conditions of immense riches on one hand, and black poverty on the other, disgrace the land. For instance, 65 per cent of wives and mothers of working men in the United States are forced to do hard work to keep the wolf from the door, and nearly 20 per cent of the school children are underfed and under-nourished. Yet, 60 per cent of the wealth is claimed by 2 per cent of the rich. This is not the conclusion of any irresponsible agitator, but that of the United States Commission appointed by Act of Congress in 1912.

I repeat : reconstruction after the war is now a popular theme. But is it to be reconstruction hand in hand with vested interests, who will never be prepared to serve the people in the same lavish manner they serve themselves ? Or, is it to be reconstruction on real co-operative lines, with the producer, distributor, and consumer united, and acting as one interest for the well-being of all ? Should not all workers of this country—and the workers of the world, if you will—combine with this industrial, commercial, and economic object in view ? So long as we are divided in social aspirations, political aims, and economic and labour theories, our progress will be slow and inefficient. We now hear of the cry of a wider labour party. Why not at the same time a wider co-

operative party, acquiring fields, factories, mines, workshops, transport service, &c., to make ourselves, first of all, self-supporting regarding the material needs of life? If a wider people's political party can help us, by all means give it a chance by faithful adherence to its democratic principles. But, when we have achieved that, we shall still be wanting in the essential possession of the means by which we must live—that is, in co-operative production, exchange, and distribution.

If we do not succeed in this direction our daily requirements will be dominated by productive and manufacturing trusts, combined with a private multiple system of distribution. Private trade, as understood thirty or forty years ago may be regarded as dead. I cannot believe that the people of this country will ever return to it again. Trade and commerce will be governed in future by various forms of co-operation less wasteful and more efficient than the old and free competitive system of the nineteenth century. But these will be forms of co-operation opposed to our own Rochdale plan. In the struggle for supremacy we shall doubtlessly come to grips with them, and that which succeeds the most will decide the future outlook of the people; but if the masses on our side are as strong and determined with regard to our system of co-operation as they are numerous, there need be no fear of the results.

Democracy is now on its trial. If it has a clear vision of what it should be aiming at, and if wisely led, I believe that no power can interpose its will to stay the onward march to social and economic victory. Just as we are endeavouring to destroy militarism as a dominant factor, just as surely will we destroy vested interests, which form a blot upon our social system, and which prevent a true development towards a higher and nobler condition of human welfare.

Besides unity we need education. We need education that would give us confidence in managing our own affairs, and in competing with the education of those opposed to us. We need education to equip us for all essential functions of life—education that will give us true culture, a knowledge of our own and other countries that will endow us with language to converse with men

and women of other nations, whether it be for moral upliftment or trade and commerce ; that will give us science to apply to our own co-operative industry.

In future the land will still be the main source of wealth ; at the same time, one of the greatest and most wonderful means of creating wealth will arise from the application of science to industry. Science applied to land may make two blades of grass grow where one formerly grew, and its application to industry will enable us to derive wealth, as if by magic, from the products and by-products accruing out of raw materials. The future of material progress will rest very much with the engineer and the chemist. If we are to make co-operation not merely part of the State, or a State within a State, but the State itself, we shall require the highest education in these two branches of usefulness as in other important developments of life.

Therefore, we co-operators, who are striving for a new world with regard to all things that concern the real well-being of the human race, should express hearty support on behalf of the new Education Bill of the Ministry of Education. * I particularly allude to those clauses in the proposal which will create longer and higher educational opportunities for the children of the workers. Never in the history of Parliament has anything so elaborate been suggested for the better equipment of the children of the masses with respect to general knowledge, science, human efficiency, and the opportunity to prepare themselves for a higher standard of life in health, refinement, learning, and practical achievement. Let the half-time system sink with other evils of the past. But compensation to the parents must follow in its train. Give the children of all grades a chance to develop and use their brain-power for the good of society irrespective of class distinction. Place no barrier to ability, whether it be in the son and daughter of the labourer, or in the son and daughter of the aristocrat. Never, in my opinion, has the best and widest education been more needed in the children of the people to establish their own equitable system of society, or to compete successfully with those who, by higher education and privilege, dominate the lives and check the desires of the lower classes. The workers require education

not only to provide a new interest in life, but to advance co-operation in all forms. In a higher education lies at least a part of their hope of the future.

But I would like to add that no system of education could give satisfaction to me which did not tend to break down the callous caste feeling between one class and another, leading, as it does, to many evils in the community. I would put all children, rich or poor, through a form of elementary schools, and let those of all classes who have the ability proceed together to higher schools and the university. Brains and not cash should be the determining factor as to which pursuit in life persons should be employed.

Coming to our own pressing co-operative affairs, it would ill become me not to express a protest against the infliction of the Excess Profits Duty upon an organisation like ours, mainly composed of hard-working men and women. Is there any semblance of justice in making us pay, as consumers, in the cost of food, clothing, shelter, and pleasure, the taxes and excess profits of the wealthy classes, and then extracting excess profits out of what we spend with our retail society, or with our own Co-operative Wholesale Societies? Never was the cost of living all round higher, seldom have the requirements of life been so restricted; but despite these, and the higher taxes of various kinds upon the wealthier classes, profits, dividends, and reserve funds for future use have increased during the war almost in proportion to the enhanced charges upon our daily necessities.

Even Government control has resulted in handsome profits for producers, manufacturers, traders, and middlemen in our own and in other countries. It was never easier to pay high taxation, or make large profits. The income of wage-earners, it is true, is much higher than formerly in some instances. But they have to work harder under fatiguing conditions for what they obtain. On the other hand, the earnings of many workers are much less in proportion to the increased cost of living, and thousands of families can only live by depriving themselves of commodities essential to the maintenance of health and strength.

But how are we to remedy these evils? We have reached the stage when we must decide definitely in our own minds whether,

among all the forces of the world, any is capable of establishing a better remedy than is co-operation. Can we hope for much from politics alone? If rightly conducted we can. But now that we have adopted a co-operative political attitude and are establishing a political organisation, let me say that I hope that in the whirl of political activity we shall not forget the more solid necessity of giving a sound co-operative industrial and commercial foundation to our co-operative State. Unless politics is wielded solely for our co-operative ends it may become a positive danger. Therefore, in politics let us keep clean and clear about our entire purpose.

The true science of politics is indispensable to the well-being of any sound democratic community. The true science of politics is therefore essential to a complete co-operative State. But are fields and mines, factories, railways, and distributive stores also not indispensable to us? It would be fatal to overlook this form of our activity, or lessen it, by throwing ourselves into politics. We have to suffer injustice and exploitation, not so much because we have not been political, as because we have not advanced sufficiently in co-operative trade and commerce to hold and control fields for production to be distributed for our direct benefit as workers and consumers.

But I repeat, can we hope for all we desire from politics alone? Can we hope for all we desire from trade-unionism alone, in which increased rates of wages are ever racing after advances in the cost of living, and never getting in front? Is it possible to find a solution of our problems in some wise and well-directed combination of the three forces of co-operation, co-operative politics, and trade-unionism heading towards a Co-operative Commonwealth? The advance of the co-operative movement would give us possession of the fundamental means of life. Without that possession, politics will be a doubtful activity, trade-unionism will remain a kind of cul-de-sac with no satisfactory way out for the economic liberation of the people. Have we as co-operators not gone far enough in the ethical and industrial construction of co-operation to indicate what its complete success would mean to the welfare of the people? I have shown that in the present state of society the lot of a vast number of working-class families tends

towards the social gutter. Can, or will, the present state of society remedy that which it is always creating? We need new methods, new means of organising and controlling society, new principles of trade, industry, and commerce. Party politics is a warfare of capitalists and workers on one side and capitalists and workers on the other side. Trade-unionism is a struggle to get from employers all that we can out of the wage slave system, whilst co-operation is a principle to bring all people into one class with one political, industrial, and economic aim, not to fight private capitalists but to replace them by collective ownership.

This process will lead to all kinds of unseen difficulties as we strive to make progress towards its realisation. We shall have to present an indivisible front to those whose determination is to thwart our efforts and finally overthrow our system. Attempts will be made to weaken us in various ways. None of us believe that we should be crippled beyond recovery by any iniquitous decision to tax the savings of co-operative trading at the source. But if the campaign of private traders and vested interests were successful, it would be regarded as one of several means they will adopt from time to time to undermine our strength.

Taxation of workers' savings from mutual trading would be one of the most pernicious acts of legislation ever enacted against the desires of the working classes to improve their economic conditions. We are a law-abiding body of citizens, and being wage-earners we have to meet our taxation responsibilities to the State if our incomes come within the present claims of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whilst we have no means of evading the full demands of income tax, as is the case with many profit-makers. Working men and women may or may not contend with justice that if their incomes are below a certain level they should give anything towards the maintenance of the State beyond their persistent labour, out of which a series of private profits are accumulated before the production of labour reaches the consumer. But there should be no question about the wrong committed in compelling them to pay income tax on a percentage of their total expenditure at the co-operative stores. Where all share and share alike the surplus arising from the benefits of collective expenditure,

it is a travesty to call it profit. If any member of a society invests his surplus and derives interest from it, he is then placed on a level with any other investor as regards the claims of income tax. In law, we therefore enjoy no privilege. And what does our surplus amount to? If we average the total "profits" which our opponents so glibly talk about we shall find that they represent less than £5 per head of membership. And what is the traders' proposal? It is that our collective surplus should be taxed at the source at the rate of 5s. or 6s. in the £. Is there any fair-minded man or woman who can honestly argue that such a heavy and discouraging impost should be put upon the thrift of wage-earners?

But if our trading enemies can force the Treasury to do this they will not hesitate for a moment to inflict the injustice. We must be careful not to rest content behind old arguments, or legal opinion, however unquestionable it may appear to be, for it is not impossible for influential self-seekers to persuade a Government to impose an injustice upon a very large section of the nation. Our enemies realise this, and are now bringing every possible means to bear upon their agitation to burden us with a tax which every Chancellor of the Exchequer has considered inconsistent with the practice of British taxation. Efforts are now put forward persistently to induce local and national federations of trade and commerce to throw their weight against the scales of justice. The columns of newspapers in every part of the country are being used by them with the object of gaining strength and favour and at the same time slandering the co-operative movement. Reasons for or against taxation of co-operative savings at the source are no doubt well known to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but in future it will not be only necessary for us to restate our case again and again, but to consolidate the whole of our ranks to prevent the Government being induced by traders to place a financial obstacle in the way of our progress towards ideals, and thus create an indefensible breach in the legal constitution of co-operative societies. To some extent, however, it will be our fault if a small force of private traders are permitted to carry this issue against an army of co-operators made up of millions of men and women.

The co-operative movement commenced in a humble manner.

Poverty, oppression, and injustice were the stimulants that urged the poor Pioneers to sow the seeds of a system that has become world-wide in its effects. From small things it grew to greater and greater activities. Ideas and methods have had to be altered to meet the developments and ramifications of the movement and to prepare for further advancement. Amid all the changes, uncertainties, and expectations of to-day, another opportunity has come to us fraught with possibilities that are almost immeasurable. Are we co-operators going to control the food supplies of the country, or at least of our own people, after the war, or must this function in society be left to the trusts, combines, and multiple companies, who, having stolen our principle of co-operation, condemn us and endeavour to crush us out of existence? The place and power of landlordism form a formidable fortress for aristocracy, whilst in the trust, the combine, and the multiple distributive system, plutocracy is entrenching itself against the forces of democracy. It is doubtful perhaps which of the two—landlordism or private trade combination—will be the greater menace to us in future.

What is going to be our attitude towards these two allies—landlordism and private trade combination? During the war we have gained some idea of our strength and some idea of our weakness. For the future it is absolutely essential that we should be more co-operative in contending against our foes. If the movement had a true idea of its power, we might now have occupied an unassailable position. We must rid ourselves of party action, of jealousy, suspicion, and ill-formed criticism. In the past we have had too many ideas combined with too many impracticable theories.

Certainly, with the knowledge we now possess of a practical character, we could have controlled the regulation of food. I say that the two Co-operative Wholesale Societies, working in harmony with the retail societies, could have set an example of economy and efficiency to the whole of the country that would have compelled the Government—with a backing of the people—to have followed our lead and saved the nation millions of pounds sterling. But our pleas were ignored.

We must proceed, nevertheless, with our own work for our collective ends. Unfortunately, too much individualism has been practised in proportion to the collectivism preached, both in societies and individuals. Until this is altered we cannot succeed as we ought to do. During the war, and at other times, private interests by acting together have succeeded in subordinating national interest to private gain, which has been the basis of great unrest among consumers.

It is surely common knowledge now that individual trading has completely failed during the war, as it fails to give justice and equity in times of peace. Private firms are now under Government control. The equipment of the Army and Navy has had to be taken out of the hands of private firms. The bungling in connection with the supplies of the civil population with the ordinary necessities of life has brought the nation, more than once, to a state bordering on revolution. At a time like this, when we find a portion of the people getting more than they can consume, and others not receiving sufficient to maintain a bare existence, can we wonder at the grave dissatisfaction that has existed? We had offered to place our organisation at the disposal of the Government, but it was decided that the ordinary trade channels—even in Government control—must be maintained, and the results have been disastrous. Profits, commissions, and brokerage have had to be paid, and middlemen of every shade and shape have been maintained in a position which, in many cases, has been superior to that they enjoyed in times of peace.

What we ask for is a just control of all the essentials of life. Take sugar, for instance. Until that article was rationed and allocation compulsorily organised, unrest of a serious character prevailed. Now the country is at peace with the legal regulation. I am convinced that if all other articles of food were dealt with similarly, a wider feeling of satisfaction and security would prevail. What we would have done, and could have done, voluntarily, has had to be forced upon vested interests by law, with threats of heavy fines and imprisonment for non-compliance. Why were we not permitted to do it? We have, in the first place, a right to blame the Government for throwing itself entirely on the side

of individualism against our willingness to be of service in the grave national crisis. At the same time, has the failure to enforce our will not also been due to lack of organisation and unity in our ranks? Let us improve our own methods for the future. If the time has come when we should properly define the duties of each section of the movement, whilst I say it would be dangerous to leave one section at the mercy of another, it would be inexcusable folly not to have our machinery so arranged that all sections could and should combine on general and national questions. If we were to take that stand and be more co-operative among ourselves, we could always depend upon the common sense that permeates the democracy of co-operation to support our united objects. Democracy is sound when well led. It is the misfortune of all great movements that those who should lead are often too much occupied in trying to settle differences among themselves. This is unpardonably inconsistent in any form of democracy, and is doubly so in the co-operative movement whose first principles are unity and cohesion for a common purpose. Reform or reconstruction of any section of the movement should be approached in an open and manly fashion, whether it be alluding to the Co-operative Wholesale Societies, the Co-operative Union, the Women's Guild, or the Co-operative Newspaper Society. Our own reforms should be approached with the idea not of narrowing the scope and control of each, but of broadening them, and at least making them efficient not for the persons controlling them, but for the movement at large.

What I want to enforce, in conclusion, however, is that the practical work of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies must be safeguarded in our interests, and not in the interests of our enemies. We may glorify ethics, and sing the praises of ideals for ever, but without the material necessities of life we can have no State. The vision of the Pioneers was noble and inspiring, but it is the duty of their descendants to transform their dreams of a higher State into practical life. As trade and commerce have proved the basis of the wealth of nations, out of which have arisen institutions of culture, refinement, and all the felicities of life, so trade and commerce must form the basis of wealth in the co-operative nation.

But they must be conducted on the co-operative principle and the results likewise distributed on this rule. In future we must take a higher view of trade and commerce, have a clearer conception of what they mean to our real welfare, so that we, above all other reformers, may give a concrete and solid foundation to the new world we desire to build about us. The long history of the world's commerce furnishes many examples of adventure and romance, to the enrichment of a few individuals. We have now the power of providing an entirely new chapter to that history—which is that of transforming the control of commerce from an individualist to a collectivist State, and providing for the people a sufficient supply of the products of the soil, the fruits of the earth, the commodities of the factory, and, with them all, justice, equality, education, and, at least, the security of a better existence.

The PRESIDENT: The General Secretary will now read the letters of regret from foreign delegates.

The SECRETARY: As usual, we have sent out invitations to each of our friends in the Allied Countries and the Neutral Countries, but up to the present we have only received one letter, and that from Switzerland. We must put that down to the postal service being so irregular owing to the war, and if any further communications or greetings come to hand they will be inserted in the report.

Mr. WHITEHEAD read the following letter from the Swiss Union of Co-operative Consumers' Societies, and then the succeeding telegram from "our Russian friends who were with us last year":—

THE SWISS UNION OF CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

We are in receipt of your favour of 5th April, 1918, inviting us to participate in the fiftieth Congress of the British Co-operative Union at Liverpool from 20th to 22nd May, 1918, and beg to thank you very sincerely for your kind attention.

With regard to the great difficulties met with by travelling abroad and considering the great work resulting from the different questions raised by the providing of our country with victuals, we are very sorry to say that we do not see any possibility to take part in your meeting.

We therefore take the liberty to wish you herewith every success, and that your meeting will be productive of the greatest benefit to your Union and to the splendid English co-operative movement in general.

We hope that a righteous peace will soon enable us to renew our friendly relations with the English co-operators by personal participation in the Congresses.

RUSSIAN CO-OPERATORS IN ENGLAND.

Being unable to attend the Jubilee Congress, we beg you to convey best wishes for successful fruitful work, from ourselves personally and from Central Russian Co-operative organisations which we represent in this country. Freed from various impediments, Russian co-operation has made enormous progress during last year. Number of co-operative societies increased to 50,000, and our movement has spread to such branches of national economic activities of which it dared not think before. A new central body, in the shape of All-Russian Council of Co-operative Congresses, has been created, which now co-ordinates work of all branches of co-operation. However, if the forces of Russian co-operation have doubled its duties and task in connection with the reconstruction and regeneration of national economic resources have increased boundlessly. In its struggle for a better future, Russian co-operation always followed attentively lessons and advice of its older and more experienced foreign chiefs, chiefly of British co-operators. We hope that the results of the work of your Congress will prove beneficial, not only for the British co-operative movement, but also far beyond this country.

On behalf of Moscow Narodny Bank, Bubnoff; All-Russian Central Union Co-operative Societies, Crysiou; Union Siberian Creamery Associations, Skoulitch, Yarkoff.

The following letters have been received since the Congress—these had been delayed owing to the postal arrangements:—

FROM THE DANISH CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

We have to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of the 5th ult., by which you kindly invited us to the fiftieth Congress of the British Co-operative Union.

We beg to thank you for your invitation, and very much regret that we, owing to the abnormal times, do not see our way to send representatives to this, your fiftieth Congress.

Please accept our heartiest greetings.

NETHERLANDS CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

The kind invitation of the British Co-operative Union to our organisation to be represented at the Liverpool Congress, though dated 5th April, came into our hands only yesterday evening, *i.e.*, on 18th May, so that it was not possible for the Dutch Co-operative Union to nominate a delegation in time and even not to respond to your kind letter in time that it could still reach the Congress.

We regret very much that again this year the war prevents us being in the midst of our best co-operative friends, but we hope that by next year we shall be happier and that we shall have seen the end of this terrible curse of humanity.

We hope the British Co-operative Congress will be a real Jubilee

Congress. The future will have so much work in store for co-operation that every co-operative meeting till then must be of the greatest importance.

With the best wishes and cordial greetings.

NORWEGIAN CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

Thanking you for your kind invitation to your fiftieth annual Co-operative Congress, we regret that it also this year will be impossible for us to be represented at the Congress.

We beg you, therefore, to bring the Congress our heartiest greetings and best wishes for the future success of the British co-operative movement.

SWEDISH CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

It would have been a great pleasure and honour for the Co-operative Union of Sweden to have sent delegates to take part in your fiftieth Congress. Unfortunately, in consequence of the exceedingly slow, irregular, and expensive communications, our Union does not see its way to send any representatives to Liverpool, and therefore the committee has conferred on me, the undersigned, the pleasant task of conveying to you in writing the sincere thanks of the 300,000 members of the Swedish Co-operative Union for the invitation received from you, and of expressing on their part the unanimous hope, or, rather, their absolute conviction, that the Congress will still further strengthen the magnificent British Co-operative Union.

It is with pleasure that we are able to inform you that co-operation in Sweden has made extraordinary progress during the first years of the war, and this in spite of all the difficulties encountered during the period in question.

In 1913, our Union consisted of 565 retail societies, with a total of 129,536 members, while in 1917 these figures had increased to 825 and somewhat more than 300,000 respectively, our very successful insurance associations inclusive.

The Union, which has a wholesale trade too, had a turnover in 1913 of £419,670 sterling. In 1917 this sum had increased to £1,206,090. This considerable advance, however, is confined altogether to the years 1914-1916, for during 1917 there was a decrease of somewhat more than £10,000, caused by the almost total absence of imported goods.

The retail societies had in 1913 a total turnover of £1,801,000 sterling, and in 1916 this sum had risen to £4,496,800. (These figures are calculated according to the normal course of exchange, *i.e.*, £1 equals kroner 18.16.) We have not yet learned the sale figures of the retail societies for 1917, but the increase will probably amount to between three or four hundred thousand pounds.

During the latter part of 1917 and that part of 1918 which has hitherto elapsed, the greater part of the population of Sweden has, as a matter of fact, suffered from want of sufficient nourishment. We obtain fixed allowances in the case of almost every article of food. The daily allowance of flour (mostly rye meal) is only 200 grammes (about seven ounces) per head, and

since the beginning of the year the inhabitants of Swedish towns have a little less than two ounces of butter each once every fortnight. There is no margarine. Pork (including bacon) is issued very irregularly, and then only in small quantities. Since the new year families in Stockholm had obtained no more than 5lbs. of potatoes per week, but after 1st May even this little supply came to an end, the potatoes being reserved for planting purposes. In consequence of our receiving no cattle fodder from abroad the supply of milk has fallen to one-sixth of the normal quantity, and only the babies receive any, and then but a minimum amount. Of the 400,000 people in Stockholm, 30,000 buy their food every day in the municipal central kitchen, which at present provides hardly anything else than turnips and cabbage, the only articles of food of which there is at all any large supply. The state of things is the same in all Swedish towns and industrial centres.

The Swedish working classes have supported this dreadful condition of things with wonderful patience, but unless we soon receive grain and fodder from abroad—from England or America—an absolute famine cannot be avoided, for, in spite of the smallness of the daily allowance of bread, the country's own supplies will not last until we get the new harvest in.

Although co-operation has made such wonderful progress during the course of the war, it is clear that, under the condition of things described above, the members cannot but look forward to the immediate future with gloomy forebodings. They anxiously ask themselves if the undertaking which has been built up with so much care and thought during the course of the last twenty years will be able to stand the stress of the existing condition of things. In consequence of the fall in the value of money, several retail societies have already suffered from financial difficulties. The members also fear that, should imports into Sweden continue to be cut off by the combatant Powers, the country will soon suffer from a famine as terrible as that which Finland and part of Russia are already experiencing.

But, in spite of all this, we have not lost faith in the unfailing strength of the fundamental principles of co-operation. On the contrary, during the course of the last two or three years we have become more and more convinced that the only means that in the future can protect mankind against a renewal of this fall into the barbarity of war is co-operative organisation, thoroughly carried out, of the internal economic life of every country, and a free interchange of goods between the immense co-operative unions which the various nations of the earth would then form. We trust that this firm belief in the justice and strength of the principles of co-operation will carry co-operation in Sweden safely over all the existing or expected difficulties in the way of obtaining goods.

Through the columns of the *Co-operative News* (which reaches us very irregularly, however) we have learned, of course, that co-operation in Great Britain, too, has not succeeded in escaping unscathed by inconveniences caused by the present state of things in the world. But we know, too, that the movement has victoriously repulsed the attacks that short-sighted opponents

have directed against it. We are persuaded that in the future these attacks will recoil shattered from the impregnable ramparts of your great Union. We are firmly convinced that, on the occasion of your fiftieth Congress, at least one-half of the population of Great Britain and Ireland will be members of the societies, and will thereby become the decisive factor in the national life of the kingdom. It is with this conviction that the Swedish Co-operative Union sends to you, the British Co-operative Union—the pioneer and teacher of this magnificent movement—its fraternal greetings, with the hope that as soon as this unhappy conflict is ended and communications have once more become normal we shall resume those personal connections with you which have been of such inestimable value in the past for the co-operative movement in this country.

DEPUTATION FROM FRANCE.

MR. WHITEHEAD: We have on the platform to-day two representatives from the co-operative movement in France, and a third, Madame Daudé-Bancel, has come along with her husband to look after him and to act as his interpreter.

MONS. DAUDE-BANCEL (of the French Co-operative Union), speaking from manuscript, his wife translating, said: Dear comrades, we are very pleased, my friend Waseige and I, to have the opportunity of bringing to you the fraternal and cordial greetings of our French friends. The French co-operative movement is not yet as great as that of the United Kingdom. The war has deprived us of a third of our societies, which have been destroyed, pillaged, or remain in those portions of France which are occupied by the enemy. But French co-operators, under the vigorous impulse of the French Co-operative Union, are setting themselves to reconstruct these societies, and to a certain extent they have succeeded. They have been assisted in this work by the National Aid Committee by the most broad-minded captains of industry, by the most advanced of the municipalities, and by the French Government itself, notably by the Ministry of Munitions. In many places where industrial towns have sprung up, and in which large numbers of people are solely engaged on war work, co-operative restaurants and co-operative stores have been opened out where, before the war, there were none. The new movement has so developed that at the present time the losses from the beginning of the war are wiped out, and the new movement has so grown that the co-operative movement is now stronger than it was before the war. When, in 1915, the butchers of Paris were up against the sale of frozen meat, the co-operative societies obtained from the Government exceptional concessions in order to secure the distribution of this meat to consumers. The municipalities of Paris and district advanced funds, and to-day the Union of Co-operative Distributive Societies in Paris is the only organisation for the sale of frozen meat. The public authorities, little by little, have recognised the importance of co-operation, and have supported our efforts. Little by little the Co-operative Union has distributed frozen meat, coal, potatoes, peas, beans, &c., on

account of the municipalities of Paris. It has developed its grocery department and its restaurants, and it actually possesses 110 branches and does a trade of 25 million francs. In three years, through amalgamation with the other co-operative societies in the district, it will have an annual turnover of fifty to sixty millions. Before the 7th May, 1917, distributive co-operative societies had no legal status, but, thanks to the good services rendered by them, the Government was led to give them official recognition and to place a fund of two millions at their disposal. Since 1915, the National Federation has endeavoured to reconstitute the destroyed co-operative societies. It formally planned out a few co-operative districts, one for each invaded part of France, in order that when the war is over we shall have a truly co-operative organisation opposed to the private firms with the multiple shops. We are establishing at present, in each district, a district co-operative society, with branches, with the object of amalgamating all the former societies in the district, and thus prevent overlapping. We are also engaged in helping the war orphans. Many thanks to the support of the Americans. The National Federation is now the largest organisation at work for the relief of the orphans of France, and at the present time, in order to save the children of Paris from the dangers of shells and bombs of the faithful subjects of the Kaiser, our Federation is sending the little ones of Paris out into the country. We are conscious of having done good work in the interest of France during the war. If we had been as strong as you are, what great things could we not have done, backed up with the moral support of the French Government? But the difficulties and the high cost of living will not be over when victory comes. Consumers will have to group themselves round their co-operative organisations, and we shall be able to render to them still greater service for the welfare of consumers in association with producers. And in our work of emancipation we shall never lose sight of the examples and the encouragements which we receive in such great degree from our good friends, the co-operators of Great Britain.

Mons. P. WASEIGE (of the French Wholesale Society), whose speech was translated for the benefit of the Congress by Mr. H. J. May, said: It is always a great pleasure and a great honour for us to take part in your Congress. We do not forget that if we have made during some ten years some progress in the organisation of the co-operative movement in France, it is due in a great measure to following your examples. Mons. Daudé-Bancel has just briefly detailed to you the general situation of our co-operative organisations, so I will content myself by endeavouring to show to you what the French Wholesale Society has done since it was established in September, 1906. It does business amounting to 4,000,000 francs a month. These figures, of course, are very modest compared with those attained by you, but they would have been very much more but for having lost the most co-operative districts through their being occupied by the enemy. We have had warehouses destroyed in the Pas-de-Calais and in the Ardennes. The boot and shoe factories which we had—the one in the Pas-de-Calais, the other in the

Somme—are not destroyed, but we have had to abandon them because they are in the middle of the battlefields. However, we have endeavoured to meet these deficiencies by opening out new works. We have taken over a working boot and shoe factory in Brittany and a new jam factory at Bordeaux which formerly belong to Price. The French Wholesale Society has actively worked for the establishment of abbatoirs and cold storage places for meat and fish. We have a great scheme to take in hand after the war. It is the organisation of an international wholesale society for the exchange of imported productions; and it is on our English friends that we base our hopes for the realisation of this idea, which will have great results, practical and moral, and will unite our peoples for mutual benefit.

DEPUTATION FROM THE TEACHERS' UNION.

Miss E. R. CONWAY, M.A., representing the National Union of Teachers, said: I bring to you the greetings of the National Union of Teachers, a body comprising 95,000 teachers of this country. I am very pleased to realise what tremendous power we can have in our work by your co-operation and the co-operation of your societies. I realise we have you with us in our endeavour to improve the condition of education for the workers of this country. I am pleased to hear you are in sympathy with the Education Bill, in which is laid down the principle of equality of opportunity for every child, from the lowest to the highest. I am pleased to hear that you welcome the abolition of half-time, for which the teachers have been working for a long time. We welcome the work in regard to the use of the elementary schools by all grades of society. I do not know whether we will get it. We have a strong class prejudice to fight, but with your help we can go far. We can certainly work for, and get, conditions of work in the primary schools which shall be equal to those in the secondary schools. You know, most of you, that in a primary school a teacher may be held responsible for sixty pupils. Where have the workers of this country been while the N.U.T. have been fighting against it? In a secondary school it is only thirty children. Whatever reforms may be instituted in the new Bill, we must realise this: that the foundation of education in this country—as in all countries—lies in the primary class. And unless conditions, therefore, are improved all other remedies will fail. We must have small classes and qualified teachers for every class, and not have a particular form of teacher, devised by an educational authority, who shows no particular qualifications, for a primary teacher, like the ones which were called “The Guinea Girl.” We want the same conditions for every child and equality of opportunity. I am sure we will have the co-operation of every co-operator in this great work. I welcome the pronouncement on women’s suffrage; but you should have more women on your Central Board. I hope you will forgive that little criticism. I thank you very much for your welcome, and wish you every success.

TRADE UNION GREETINGS.

Mr. E. Bevin, representing the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, was introduced by the President, and was cordially greeted on rising to address the Congress.

Mr. BEVIN said: Mr. Chairman and fellow-workers, I am deputed to extend to you fraternal greetings from the British Trades Union Congress. I take it that this year will be of particular import to both of these great bodies. Whatever may have been our paths in the past, these are now converging. Stern necessity has brought this about, and the European tragedy is compelling the Labour movement to close up its ranks and view the whole of our industrial and civic life from a new point of view. The State has come into the whole of our social existence. The State has become a great productive agent. It has become, by far, the largest employer of labour in the world. The question that arises for the Labour movement—and in that movement I include yours—is: What shall be our attitude to these great productive and distributive agencies that the war has brought into existence? At the end of the war, after all the expenditure of brains, money, and energy, shall they be handed back to private capitalist control, to private capitalist ownership; or shall they be retained by the common people for the common weal? That is a great problem that the trade union movement and organisations like your own will have to face. The great problem of raw material is more vital to us than tariffs or any other form of fiscal policy. The Government of this country has purchased, in all parts of the world, millions of pounds worth of raw materials, expending in some cases well over a hundred years' production. The whole trend of the governing classes, nevertheless, is to gibe at Government action, to poke fun at Government control, and to point to the time when the Government will release its hand. Private capitalism failed us in the hour of trial, and it would be shameful to hand back to these people what they failed to use for us. Railway, transport, and raw materials—three vital essentials to the well-being of the modern state—shall these be handed back to those who misused them in the days of peace and compelled us to use them for ourselves when war came? I want to ask this Congress not to agree to leave these things in the hands of the governing classes. In the interests of the future generation I ask that. I see a repetition of history otherwise. In the great wars of the past we have had glorious Acts, and we have had land thieving. To-day we are a great manufacturing people and the same policy is being attempted, the State to enslave us and other people to gain the advantage. However, I have in mind the propaganda of the Labour movement and the experience—administrative and commercial—of the co-operative movement. If we can blend these two we can guide the State so that the fetters of the past shall be removed from the necks of the children. The added membership that has come into our two organisations brings not only pride to our hearts because of our progress, but a deep sense of responsibility. We cannot have power without responsibility. If we criticise those who have been responsible for the past, we must be prepared

to supplant them. We have to take into consideration not merely the problems we have now to solve, but the instruments and methods by which we have to reach the solution. In a country like Great Britain, where we have political freedom, it is neither wise, nor is it politic, to have only one architect of our destiny. The psychology of the position has to be taken into consideration, and we have to create a broad enough movement to bring into it all who are inspired with a power to move and who are aiming at a higher standard of living. I want, therefore, to ask your Congress and my own to make our movement big enough and broad enough to take within it all who are aiming at that. If we can bring that great constructive kind of labour to bear upon its task, I believe we can show the governing classes that they have not yet learned the arts of governing as understood and desired by the common people. In bringing these greetings from the other wing of the Labour movement—an aggressive movement which has shaped the policy of governments—I may, perhaps, refer, in conclusion, to the great European tragedy. I have often wondered what the founders of your Congress and of the Trades Union Congress would have thought if they could have sat in the Westminster Hall and seen the power of Labour expressed when it compelled the Prime Minister of the country to come to announce the war aims of the country to Labour first for Labour's judgment. When this great tragedy comes to be cleared up, if there is to be any guaranteed force behind the League of Nations, it will not be a force of armies or police; the guaranteed force will be movements like yours and mine. I have to extend best wishes to this Congress. I am glad your movement has made the progress it has. I am pleased to think you are making a forward movement, and, if you will allow me, I would like to congratulate Mr. May on his success at Prestwich. I am glad he did not win. If he had won you would have lived in a fool's paradise; but seeing that he lost you will now realise that you must organise.

DEPUTATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

The PRESIDENT: We are now to receive a deputation from the International Co-operative Alliance. I have great pleasure in asking one of our members and best friends, Mr. Maxwell, to speak.

Mr. W. MAXWELL (International Co-operative Alliance): After the remarks of the last speaker, we will pass from aggression to peace. I came here to speak of peace. The International Co-operative Alliance has been somewhat crippled in its activities because of the cruel war, but I think it only right to say that although our leaders are scattered throughout Europe, and have not met for four years, the bond of comradeship binding us together in co-operative sentiment is perhaps stronger to-day than ever. I believe that this unfortunate, cruel, and miserable war will not be in vain. It has drawn co-operators in different parts of the world closer together than they

were previously, and the leaders are full of hope and expect great things in various countries immediately we shall have returned to peace. Belgium, Serbia, Roumania, and North-East France have been overrun and devastated by the enemy. From the messages we have had from other parts of the world the co-operative movement seems to be progressing most wonderfully, just as we are progressing here in Great Britain. From France—I am now surrounded by good French friends here—we have a splendid message to bring you. A year ago, what was the difference between Great Britain's attitude towards co-operation and that of the French Government? Last year the Government and municipalities found themselves in a difficulty with regard to the distribution of food, and they turned to the leaders of the co-operative movement for their assistance. Although the French movement was not so well organised as ours to-day they threw themselves into the work at once, with the result that I have heard this morning that they are the only distributors of foreign meat in Paris. This is a marvellous change. The municipalities vied with the Government in recognising the movement as being the proper authority to carry out the distribution efficiently. I also find that co-operation is being taken up amongst the men of the new Army in the field in France. In the rear of the lines various divisions have co-operative stores managed by the officers and men of the division. The profits are shared very much in the same way as ours are shared in this country. From the General of the division down to the humblest soldier, we find that all were delighted with the movement. When they return to civil life the interest which they are now taking will cause them to have a higher appreciation of it. With regard to Russia, a country of which we had great hopes a few years ago, when this political chaos passes away, which you and I hope that it will in a very short time, we have great hopes that co-operation will develop in that country, and that a way out will be found from some of the difficulties in which the country is placed at present. I have travelled in that country, and know that the peasantry are a deserving and hopeful people if properly led. I am glad to see that in America a step is being taken to found co-operative societies throughout that great continent. The Federation of Labour, led by Mr. Samuel Gompers, appointed a committee, who have gone into the question of co-operation. They have been led up to this by the grasping nature of those who have supplied them with food. The committee has reported to the Federation of Labour that the Federation should establish at once co-operative societies throughout the United States. This being the first step, when the people get to understand it we have hopes that under the wing of this great Federation of Labour in the United States co-operation will get a footing.

I still think that many societies in Great Britain might do more for the Alliance than they are doing. Some four hundred societies belong to the Alliance. I am quite sure that many societies represented here have only to bring the matter before their committees to induce them to join hands with us in this good work. But for the Alliance we should not have this

splendid array of French ladies and gentlemen with us. If times were happier there would have been other countries represented here. Many societies in Great Britain that have not joined the Alliance I hope will take thought and will help them in this great work. We shall require every help in this communion of thought and action to compel, not only the British Government, but every government, to take the co-operative side of the League of Nations, whose aim, and the only aim I care for, is that war will be made impossible for the future. If that is so, give your help in joining the Alliance. I am certain that when the leaders of the movement meet immediately after peace has been declared—it will be a delicate meeting, I grant you—I am confident that this strong co-operative spirit, in the main, will out-live all other sentiment. I have the greatest hope for the future of the Co-operative Alliance.

CENTRAL BOARD ELECTIONS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY announced the names of the successful candidates in the election for members of the Central Board in accordance with the following list, Mr. Whitehead explaining that he would not trouble the Congress with the figures, for, departing from their usual custom, the results had been published in the *Co-operative News* :—

IRISH EXECUTIVE.

Elected : J. C. Adams, 33; H. Archer, 33; W. Gray, 32; W. G. Kane, 32; J. Palmer, 32; W. J. McGuffin, 30; L. P. Byrne, 20.

Unsuccessful : M. H. Farrell, 17; F. P. Roche, 3; L. Smith-Gordon, 3; F. W. Breen, 2; R. N. Tweedy, 2.

MIDLAND SECTION.

Elected : C. A. W. Saxton, 284; J. Millington, 282; G. Bastard, 279; W. Millerchip, 259; J. G. Shacklock, 247; A. H. Jones, 241; J. Butcher, 226; W. J. Douse, 219; J. Langley, 196; G. Harris, 185; **S. Butler, 152.**

Unsuccessful : W. Warren, 94; A. Mann, 88; Mrs. M. E. Cottrell, 64; W. J. Rogers, 59; G. Stanton, 53; T. B. Hicks, 50; W. Abbotts, 41; A. Wyld, 38; H. Baynes, 36; C. W. Brown, 34; J. Clay, 30; C. Coe, 29; H. J. Potter, 24; H. Sanders, 23; A. Fullwood, 23; H. Tarbox, 20; J. R. Higson, 19; W. W. Hill, 16; S. Page, 16; W. A. Cox, 13; E. Hilton, 11; F. Weekley, 8; J. Clewlow, 4; T. O. Unwin, 3.

NORTHERN SECTION.

District No. 1, North Northumberland.—Elected : J. Davison, 17.
Unsuccessful : J. M. Gillians, 12.

District No. 2, South Northumberland.—Elected : J. C. Aiston, 66
Unsuccessful : S. Morton, 4.

District No. 3, Cumberland and Westmorland.—Elected : G. Riddle, 34.
Unsuccessful : J. W. Mackay, 7; J. P. Johnstone, 3.

District No. 4, West Durham and South Northumberland.—Elected : W. Scott, 40. Unsuccessful : D. Mole, 9; J. Smith, 4.

District No. 5, East Durham.—Elected : W. R. Rae (unopposed).

District No. 6, South Durham.—Elected : S. Galbraith, M.P., 52.
Unsuccessful : S. A. Meddick, 6; J. Bell, 5; R. Robins, 1.

District No. 7, South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire.—Elected : G. Bedford, 80. Unsuccessful : G. W. Askew, 6.

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

District Candidates.

Airedale District.—Elected : S. R. Foster (unopposed).

Bolton District.—Elected : S. Fairbrother (unopposed).

Calderdale District.—Elected : J. Greenwood, 19. Unsuccessful : J. Morris, 13; Mrs. M. Johnson, 5.

Cheshire and North Wales.—Elected : W. R. Blair, 124. Unsuccessful : S. C. Hughes, 6.

Dewsbury District.—Elected : T. Way, 71. Unsuccessful : G. Lucas, 11.

East Yorkshire District.—Elected : G. Goodenough, 39. Unsuccessful : J. Nicholson, 19.

Huddersfield District.—Elected : E. Booth, 49. Unsuccessful : J. E. Bradshaw, 9.

Macclesfield, Crewe, and District.—Elected : F. Hayward, 52. Unsuccessful : J. Brassington, 14; G. Travis, 13; H. Redfern, 5.

Manchester District.—Elected : A. Horricks, 99. Unsuccessful : W. H. Kirkland, 22; C. Gregory, 10; H. Nuttall, 6; N. Ramsden, 1.

North-East Lancashire.—Elected : W. Dewhurst (unopposed).

North Lancashire.—Elected : W. Gregory, 50. Unsuccessful : J. Parr, 14.

North Lonsdale District.—Elected : W. Swindlehurst (unopposed).

Oldham District.—Elected : F. Houghton (unopposed).

Rochdale District.—Elected : B. Wolfenden (unopposed).

Rossendale District.—Elected : J. R. Cunliffe, 16. Unsuccessful : T. Haworth, 6.

South Yorkshire District.—Elected : G. Major (unopposed).

Sectional Candidates.

Elected : T. Redfearn, 694; J. Johnston, 661; J. Morrell, 561; G. Briggs, 402.

Unsuccessful : J. Thompson, 365; J. Sharples, 355; J. Dimberline, 292; E. Whiteley, 290; J. O. Paynter, 274; Mrs. A. H. Nevitt, 143; D. Pogson, 135; R. Hadfield, 113; J. Upson, 84; R. Hargreaves, 59; G. J. Wilkinson, 55; W. J. Cooper, 25; T. Prescott, 19; C. Hughes, 3.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Elected : W. T. Charter, 354; A. Hainsworth, 333; Mrs. M. A. Gasson, 307; M. H. Clear, 306; E. King, 293; W. J. Salmon, 274; R. Rowsell, 271; S. Foulger, 239; J. H. Bate, 237.

Unsuccessful : T. S. Reeve, 124; R. Hibberd, 103; J. Maton, 82; Mrs.

A. H. Allen, 65; J. L. Welch, 39; W. H. Barton, 32; Miss E. E. M. Allen, 25; Mrs. A. W. Webb, 20; W. J. Sunman, 15; E. E. Ramsey, 11; A. Wiggins, 11; T. Hussey, 8; R. R. Prynne, 6; A. Hollands, 5; J. Waterford, 3; J. G. Norris, 2; J. S. Bailey, 1.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Elected : Rev. G. A. Ramsay, 137; Mrs. M. Found, 130; W. H. Watkins, 126; W. Brown, 117; R. Pearce, 99; J. T. Davis, 96.

Unsuccessful : W. J. Jose, 34; E. R. S. Mundy, 33; R. G. Naish, 23; R. Andrews, 20; W. J. Hodges, 9; E. Thomas, 9; A. J. Stroud, 3.

WESTERN SECTION.

Elected : D. Williams, 98; D. Evans, 70; W. H. Bryant, 61; J. P. Davies, 59; R. R. Chappell, 55; J. L. Powell, 52.

Unsuccessful : Rev. J. F. Williams, 50; H. Watkins, 46; A. J. Burlton, 39; T. Andrews, 37; A. E. Price, 30; C. J. Griffiths, 25; J. Lloyd, 24; D. Powell, 21; J. Davies, 16; T. R. Williams, 15; S. Jones, 13; G. J. Thomas, 13; H. S. Batey, 12; W. J. Edwards, 11; T. J. Hurn, 11; J. Atkins, 5; J. Grant, 5.

I hereby certify that the above is a correct return of the voting for members of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union for the Congress Year, 1918-19, excepting those of the Scottish Section, about which it is necessary to consult the Central Board or Congress.

T. Wood, Scrutineer.

14th May, 1918.

The following is the result of the new election of the

SCOTTISH SECTION.

declared since the Congress :—

Elected : N. McLean, 444; J. Deans, 432; A. Purdie, 421; G. Bisset, 363; J. Lucas, 360; G. Wilson, 359; J. Allan, 332; J. Patterson, 296; P. Loney, 293; P. J. Agnew, 270.

Unsuccessful : M. Hunter, 191; Mrs. Tulloch, 137; W. Bell, 93; J. Muir, 53; M. Sempie, 53; R. Brownlee, 48; W. Anderson, 45; R. Stewart, 32.

VACANCY ON THE MIDLAND BOARD.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Unfortunately, since the paper was issued Mr. Butler has died. The Midland Section therefore met on Saturday and unanimously decided to recommend that the vacancy be filled by Mr. W. Warren, of Derby.

The Congress approved of the elections.

SCOTTISH ELECTION.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Those who saw the *Co-operative News* would also see a note with reference to the result of the Scottish elections. I am

sorry to say a most unfortunate incident occurred in issuing the voting paper. When the voting paper was passed by the Central Office it was quite in order. As our rule reads, each retiring candidate shall be denoted by an asterisk, and these asterisks were in their proper places when the voting paper was sent back to the printer. Unfortunately, one of the asterisks slipped from opposite the name of one of the retiring candidates, and fell to a place below, opposite another name. This matter was rather difficult to deal with, and there was rather a heated discussion about it on Saturday morning. Fortunately we were able to come to a rather satisfactory settlement. We propose that the nine candidates who head the poll shall be declared elected this morning, and that with regard to the other retiring candidate we write to the thirty-four societies whose votes seem to us to be irregular. I may say the Scottish societies have been in the habit of voting solidly for the retiring candidates, and on this occasion they just voted for one candidate outside the nine retiring candidates, therefore it has been decided to write to the thirty-four societies asking for whom they intended to vote, and if their replies show that their vote was for the candidate whose asterisk had got into the wrong line, then the vote would be credited to that retiring candidate. The idea is that the Scottish delegates might vote on that question this morning.

The PRESIDENT: It is certainly most unfortunate, but I think a fair decision has been arrived at.

A good deal of lively questioning and cross-questioning now took place, and there were repeated cries of "Chair! Chair!"

The PRESIDENT: I will take care that every delegate has fair play on this report.

The GENERAL SECRETARY further explained that he had consulted their legal advisers on the matter, and they thought that the above suggestion would meet the case.

Mr. J. SHARPLES (Blackburn Industrial): I feel there is a principle involved, and one that may be applied hereafter to affect other matters. I feel that to do as is suggested is to cast a reflection on the intelligence of those who marked their voting papers. It suggests that they were guided by an asterisk rather than the name of the man.

Mr. J. GALLOWAY (Drapery and Furnishing—Glasgow): I know that they voted not for an asterisk, but for the name of a man. I move we abide by the decision of the ballot.

Another Scottish delegate seconded.

Mr. S. F. PERRY (Birkenhead): I am quite sure that what you suggest is the correct and legal course. The Central Board know full well when you have definite rules to govern organisations it is a very serious thing indeed to depart from them. There is still time for this matter to be again considered by the Board—the Scottish delegates will be here, of course—and if you are assured that what you are doing is correct you will have the whole-hearted support of the Congress.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section): The Scottish delegates had a meeting

this morning. We met on Saturday the legal advisers of the Union and came to the unanimous arrangement that the 34 societies who, in the scrutineer's opinion, misplaced their votes should be written and asked to vote again. I hope Congress will carry that arrangement of the Scottish delegates as being the fairest and easiest way out of the difficulty.

A DELEGATE: On a point of order! If this decision is arrived at and found to be illegal, will the Scottish delegates take the responsibility or the Central Board?

Mr. J. T. DAVIS (South-Western Section): According to the rules of the Union the ballot papers are null and void. The Central Board came to a certain conclusion, which did not meet with the approval of the Scottish delegates, who left the meeting. Now a certain arrangement has been made with the approval of the Scottish delegates. Well, Mr. Wilson, I assume, speaks for the rest of the Scottish delegates. The whole point is this: that, having regard to the fact that the Central Board came to a decision and passed a resolution making a certain recommendation, I say it is out of order to make any recommendation to this Congress except the recommendation of the Central Board. The assumption is that Scotland is governed by the asterisk, and I suggest that the intelligence of Scotland is so high that this is not so.

The PRESIDENT: I suggest to the Congress that this question be referred back to the Central Board, and on their report the Congress will decide. ("Agreed.")

Mr. N. McLEAN (Scottish Section): On a point of order, I protest ("Chair!") It is a point of order. (Renewed cries of "Chair!")

The PRESIDENT: The Congress has decided to refer it back. When the Central Board has replied you will have fair opportunity of speaking.



Report of the Central Board.

INTRODUCTORY.

The Co-operative Congress of 1918 is the fiftieth of a series which began with one held in London on 31st May to 3rd June, 1869. A copy of a report of the first Congress of 1869, taken from the *Social Economist*, is given in the *Co-operative Educator* for April, 1918, together with the resolutions passed. Among these resolutions were the following :—

That for the better organisation of the movement, a provisional committee be appointed in London, to act in conjunction with the existing conference committees in the North of England and Scotland, and which shall also carry out the resolutions of this Congress, and convene a Congress next year; and that the formation of county or district unions of co-operative societies be recommended to such provisional committee as a basis for the general organisation.

That it appears to this meeting the time has come for a closer union or confederation of the co-operative societies of this country for common purposes, and for a propaganda for extending the co-operative system to the agricultural and other districts where at present it is not in operation.

The combination of the London Committee and provincial committees formed the nucleus of the Central Board which was formally organised as representing five sections in 1873. After 1873, the constitution of the Central Board was altered from time to time, and in 1889 the board was again reconstructed and the Co-operative Union Limited was brought into existence and registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

A Congress has been held every year since 1869, at Easter, during the years 1871 to 1879, but at Whitsuntide ever since. All parts of the United Kingdom have been visited, from Aberdeen in the north to London and Plymouth in the south, and from Ipswich in the east to Dublin in the west. When the routine business of Congress was less than it is to-day, papers occupied a larger part of Congress proceedings—no fewer than 22 papers being read at the London Congress in 1869, and 16 papers at Leicester in 1877, 11 papers being a quite usual number.

A large number of men with national reputations have occupied the presidential chair or read papers at the various Congresses. In recent years, however, as Congress has become to a greater extent a deliberative and business-transacting assembly, the practice has been to confine the selection of president and writers of papers to persons more intimately connected with the movement and its work. The number of delegates attending Congress has naturally increased with the growth of the movement. At the first Congress in 1869, there were 107 delegates, at the Bradford Congress in 1911 there were 1,615 delegates. At the Bradford Congress, new rules were adopted for the Union and they restricted the number of delegates that might be appointed to attend Congress to a maximum of six from any single society. The highest attendance since the new rules came into operation was 1,410 at Leicester in 1915.

During the fifty years covered by the series of Congresses, the Central Board and the Co-operative Union have been of inestimable benefit to societies members of the Union and the movement generally. The work has included the advising of societies, the undertaking of propaganda and educational work, the protection of societies and individual co-operators from boycott instituted at the instance of private traders' organisations (for which purpose a Defence Fund of £100,000 was guaranteed), the securing of legislative reforms and other forms of assistance and protection; but the services of the Union have never been in greater demand than during the period of the war when societies have experienced an extraordinary number and variety of difficulties arising from the recruiting of societies' staffs and the issue of numerous orders of a technical character by Government departments.

It has been decided that a Jubilee History of the Co-operative Union shall be issued, which will deal fully with the objects and achievements of the Co-operative Union.

Of the many decisions of the Congresses during the past fifty years few, if any, have been so momentous as the decision of the 1917 Congress to enter the political arena, a decision that was followed in October, 1917, by the holding of a special National Emergency Conference, attended by about 900 delegates, at which a scheme for political action, both national and local, was initiated. The conference was of a unique character in that it was the first time that the whole of the members of the Union had been called together between the annual Congresses, and also because of the extremely vital subjects discussed, the striking unanimity and determination of the delegates in favour of decisive action in regard to matters of grave importance to the present position and future development of the movement, as well as for the influence it exercised in Government circles.

The holding of the fiftieth Congress thus coincides with the opening of what may prove to be a new chapter of co-operative history. It also coincides with the fourth year of the most devastating war the world has yet seen, when the principles of competition are being ruthlessly applied

by nations and it seems as though the advocacy of co-operative principles at fifty Congresses had been in vain. Yet, amidst the world struggle, there are signs that people are realising as never before that competition at all times means destruction and death, and that only through co-operation can the mutual welfare of mankind be secured and protected.

1. INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1916.

The following particulars relating to Industrial Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom are taken from the *Labour Gazette* of the Ministry of Labour and based upon returns made direct to the Department of Labour Statistics, supplemented by information supplied by the Co-operative Union and the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

At the end of 1916 there were at work in the United Kingdom 1,488 industrial co-operative distributive and productive societies with an aggregate membership of 3,563,769, a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £77,937,736; a total trade (distributive and productive) of £237,525,135,* and a total profit—before deduction of interest on share capital—of £18,958,388.

Excepting for a decrease of ten in the number of societies—due mainly to amalgamations—these figures show a remarkable growth as compared with 1915, there being an increase in membership of 257,450, or 7·8 per cent; in capital of £7,611,259, or 10·8 per cent; in trade of £39,290,948, or 19·8 per cent; in profit of £1,990,439, or 11·7 per cent.

The total number of persons directly employed by the societies was 154,622,* and the total wages paid during the year amounted to £10,391,245, compared with 149,852 employees and £9,607,434 in wages in 1915.

While some of the societies are engaged only in distribution and some only in production, others are engaged in both distributive and productive operations. In the following statistics, however, distribution and production are dealt with separately.

DISTRIBUTION.

At the end of 1916, 1,364 retail and two wholesale industrial societies were engaged in distribution. These societies had an aggregate membership of 3,524,247, a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £69,936,787†;

* These figures are exclusive of the number and wages of persons employed in agriculture by industrial distributive societies, and of the sales and transfers of agricultural produce by these societies, which will be dealt with in a later report.

† The figures include the capital used in the productive departments of retail societies, and the profit upon the productions of these societies, the amounts not being available separately. The capital used in the productive departments of the Wholesale societies, £5,493,259, and the profit, £463,834, are not included.

sales amounting to £188,583,043, and a profit on distribution—before deduction of interest on share capital—of £18,143,695, while the total number of persons employed in distribution by the societies was 96,466, and the total wages paid £6,099,729.

In the following table the sales for each of the years 1906-1916 are shown separately for the retail and for the wholesale industrial societies :—

Year.	Retail Societies.		Wholesale Societies.	
	Number.	Sales.	Sales of English Society.	Sales of Scottish Society.
		£	£	£
1906	1,441	63,353,772	22,510,035	7,140,183
1907	1,432	68,109,376	24,786,568	7,603,460
1908	1,418	69,785,798	24,902,842	7,531,126
1909	1,430	70,423,359	25,675,938	7,457,136
1910	1,421	71,861,383	26,567,833	7,738,159
1911	1,403	74,812,469	27,892,990	7,851,080
1912	1,392	78,878,658	29,732,154	8,391,258
1913	1,382	83,607,043	31,371,976	8,964,034
1914	1,385	87,979,898	34,910,813	9,425,334
1915	1,374	103,073,321	43,101,747	11,363,076
1916	1,364	121,853,932	52,230,074	14,499,037

Of the total profit of £18,143,695, a sum of £16,442,913 was made by the retail societies, and £1,700,782 by the two wholesale societies. In the case of the retail societies the greater part of the profit was distributed to the members as a dividend on purchases, at an average rate of 2s. 2d. in the £1 in England and Wales, 2s. 10d. in Scotland, and 1s. 3¼d. in Ireland, the average for the United Kingdom being 2s. 3d. Compared with 1915 these rates of dividend show a decrease of 1¼d. in England and Wales, 2d. in Scotland, and an increase of ¾d. in Ireland, and a decrease of 1½d. for the United Kingdom. Non-members usually receive dividends at one-half these rates.

The English and Scottish Wholesale Societies paid to members a dividend on purchases of 5d. and 8d. in the £1 respectively. This was a decrease on 1915 of one penny in the case of each society.

In addition to the above societies there were also at work in 1916 two societies, one, a co-operative cab society in England, and the other a co-operative motor society in Ireland, with an aggregate membership of 39, a capital of £2,660, trade amounting to £9,289, and a profit of £568.

Profit-sharing with Employees.—Of the total 1,364 retail societies, 135 employing 14,629 persons and paying wages amounting to £919,560 in their distributive departments, allotted out of the profits a total of £42,542 to their employees as a bonus on wages, this being equal to 4.6 per cent on wages.

PRODUCTION.

In 1916 there were 1,118 industrial co-operative societies of various types engaged in production, consisting of 996 retail and two wholesale distributive societies having productive departments, and of 120 associations for production only; these consisting of 2 corn-milling societies, 37 bread-making and other consumers' societies, and 81 associations of workers.

The total number of persons employed by these societies was 58,123, the amount of wages paid during the year was £4,290,228, and the value of productions £48,932,803. Of the 58,123 persons employed in production 46 per cent were men, 34·2 per cent women, and 19·8 per cent were young persons under 18 years of age.

In the following table the sales and transfers of each group of societies, together with the totals for all the societies, are shown for each of the years 1906-1916 :—

Year.	Sales and Transfers of Productions.*					
	Associations of Consumers.				Associations of Workers.	Grand Total of all Societies.
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.		Productive Societies.			
	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Corn-milling Societies.	Baking and other Consumers' Societies.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1906	6,675,646	6,804,924	965,018	700,603	1,203,659	16,349,850
1907	3,277,974	8,102,980	954,733	762,949	1,319,117	19,417,753
1908	11,085,095	8,464,021	1,048,403	880,670	1,265,796	22,743,985
1909	12,034,137	8,993,922	1,111,563	906,823	1,246,879	24,293,324
1910	12,684,996	9,399,283	1,019,569	992,940	1,382,125	25,478,913
1911	12,731,608	9,615,748	1,024,331	1,020,801	1,440,357	25,832,845
1912	13,691,188	10,630,583	1,113,729	1,137,565	1,580,309	28,153,374
1913	14,550,246	11,211,882	1,003,579	1,270,579	1,732,337	29,768,623
1914	15,551,185	12,608,101	1,035,044	1,291,950	1,778,664	32,264,944
1915	19,123,388	17,350,906	304,616	1,508,872	2,399,930	40,687,712
1916	22,592,512	21,742,062	241,894	1,764,125	2,592,210	48,932,803

The total value of productions has increased in ten years by £32,582,952, or 199·3 per cent, the greatest increase of 238·4 per cent being shown by the productive departments of the retail societies. The productive departments of the wholesale societies show an increase of 219·5 per cent, the baking and other consumers' societies an increase of 151·8 per cent, and the associations of workers 115·4 per cent. Corn-milling societies show a decrease of 74·9 per cent, this being due to the absorption of several of the mills by the English wholesale society.

* In the case of the retail and wholesale societies the productions are usually transferred to the distributive departments.

The following table analyses by groups of industries, the number of persons employed, the amount of wages paid, and the amount of sales and transfers of production in 1916 :—

Groups of Industries.	Associations of Consumers.			Associations of Workers.		
	No. of Em-ployés.	Wages paid during 1916.	Sales and Transfers of Productions.	No. of Em-ployés.	Wages paid during 1916.	Sales and Transfers of Productions.
		£	£		£	£
Food and Tobacco..	16,347	1,434,410	37,649,662	165	13,665	146,995
Clothing	21,769	1,368,085	4,156,976	4,105	259,240	1,334,031
Soap, Candles, and Starch.....	1,692	119,860	1,818,904	..	..	..
Textiles	2,226	125,981	710,690	1,677	113,327	721,162
Building, Quarrying and Woodwork'g	3,354	400,025	970,716	283	21,610	51,731
Printing	2,008	141,342	470,452	935	78,648	246,557
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	634	55,992	235,148	383	23,875	78,061
Other Industries ..	2,168	125,591	328,045	77	3,577	13,673
Totals 1916 ..	50,498	3,771,283	46,340,593	7,625	518,942	2,592,210
Totals 1915 ..	53,576	3,608,672	38,287,782	7,862	495,547	2,399,930
Percentage, In-crease (+), or Decrease (-)	- 5·7	+ 4·6	+ 21·0	- 3·0	+ 4·8	+ 8·0

A total profit of £814,125 was made upon industrial production by societies other than retail societies, the profits of the latter being merged in the general profit and therefore not separately ascertainable.

Of this total £463,384 was made by the wholesale societies, £3,444 by the corn-milling societies, £162,914 by breadmaking and other consumers' societies, and £184,383 by the associations of workers.

Profit-sharing with Employees.—Of the 1,118 societies engaged in industrial production, 132, employing 10,918 persons in production, with wages amounting to £798,353, allotted a sum of £52,345* to these employees as a bonus on wages, this being equal to about 6·6 per cent. Of the total amount, £11,253 was allotted by 88 retail distributive societies, £8,752 by 4 consumers' productive societies, and £32,340 by 40 associations of workers.

Associations of Workers : Share of Employees in Membership, Capital, and Management.—Seventy-two of the associations of workers for production, with sales amounting to £2,574,163, or 99·3 per cent of the total sales of the 81 associations at work in 1916, made returns showing the extent to which their employees and others shared in the membership, capital, and management of the associations.

* Twenty-five of these societies and four additional societies (three in England and one in Scotland) allotted in addition £5,649 to Provident Funds for the benefit of their employees.

The returns show that the total membership of the 72 associations was 24,105, of whom 4,696, or 19.5 per cent consisted of employees, 15,132, or 62.8 per cent of other individuals, and 4,277, or 17.7 per cent of other societies. Of the 7,501 persons employed by the associations, 4,696, or 62.6 per cent were members of the associations employing them.

Of the £834,494 share and loan capital, £141,129, or 16.9 per cent, belonged to employees, £310,615, or 37.2 per cent, to other individuals, and £315,607, or 37.8 per cent, to other societies. The remaining £67,143, or 8.1 per cent, consisted of loans from non-members, including bank overdrafts.

The total number of directors or committee-men of the associations was 669, of whom 265, or 39.6 per cent, were employees of the associations, 267, or 39.9 per cent, were other individual members, and 137, or 20.5 per cent, were representatives of other (shareholding) societies.

2. GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

We have as usual requested Societies to supply us with particulars of their operations for the past year, and for this purpose a form of return similar to that issued by the Registrar has been sent out to all societies.

At the time of submitting the report to Congress we had not received many returns from the societies. This was accounted for by the shortage of staffs in the offices and the many other duties officials are now called upon to undertake. We now publish the statistical information in full in this report, and so far as regards the particulars of the distributive and productive societies in this section of the report give a comparison with the figures for 1916.

The totals of the figures for 1917 are given below, and compared with those for 1916:—

Year.	Total Number of Societies.	Number of Societies to which these Figures Relate.	Number of Members.	Shares. £	Trade. £	Surplus. £
1916	1,481	1,480	3,566,739	51,685,288	197,295,322	19,150,021
1917	1,478	1,448	3,836,041	54,268,456	224,918,795	18,194,600
Increase ...	—	—	269,302	2,653,218	27,618,473	—
Decrease....	3	32	—	—	—	955,421

ANALYSIS OF GENERAL RESULTS.

		Societies.	Members.	Shares. £	Trade. £	Surplus. £
Wholesale Societies	1916 ..	3 ..	1,832 ..	3,192,046 ..	67,212,860 ..	2,390,577
" "	1917 ..	3 ..	1,908 ..	3,595,589 ..	75,441,542 ..	1,821,646
Retail Societies	1916 ..	1,362 ..	3,520,227 ..	47,153,203 ..	121,628,550 ..	16,435,079
" "	1917 ..	1,366 ..	3,788,490 ..	49,384,049 ..	142,003,612 ..	15,916,591
Productive Societies	1916 ..	101 ..	35,142 ..	869,210 ..	4,461,491 ..	835,842
" "	1917 ..	97 ..	36,358 ..	899,485 ..	5,146,459 ..	359,740
Supply Associations	1916 ..	4 ..	8,560 ..	370,592 ..	3,402,308 ..	92,328
" "	1917 ..	3 ..	8,282 ..	358,492 ..	1,712,718 ..	58,602
Special Societies	1916 ..	6 ..	420 ..	22,936 ..	408,110 ..	27,311
" "	1917 ..	4 ..	278 ..	21,617 ..	480,334 ..	29,388

3. WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

(a) English Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

Colonial and agricultural developments were the outstanding features of the record of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in 1916; since then both aspects of progress have been well sustained and further consideration given to matters of internal financial importance.

When the history of the Co-operative Wholesale Society during the war years is written the movement will realise how great have been its departures into new enterprises and how it has endeavoured to respond to the needs of societies. True, many of its trading departments have been harassed and hampered by some of the Government regulations of supplies. These have, in most cases, been allowed upon the basis of a proportion of the supplies in 1915 or 1916, instead of allocations being made according to the number of present customers. Despite such restrictions—which have frequently led to the Co-operative Wholesale Society being criticised for conditions altogether beyond its control—trade returns have been phenomenal. Increased values are responsible for some of the larger figures; the returns also represent a constantly growing volume of trade. The withdrawal of man-power from the productive works has added to the anxieties of the manufacturing sections. But progress has not been arrested. The total sales for 1917 were an increase of 10½ per cent on those for the previous year. Supplies from the productive works totalled £18,482,277, an increase of 13½ per cent. Thus the proportion of goods from the many productive factories is being increased during a trying period. The advance during the present century has been distinctly notable, as is indicated in the following comparative figures of the sales of the Society:—

1867 (65 weeks).....	£331,744	1901	£17,642,082
1877	£2,697,366	1907	£24,786,568
1887	£5,713,235	1913*.....	£31,371,976
1897	£11,920,143	1917	£57,710,133

* The last complete year of peace.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Last year's review recorded the beginning of a vigorous policy in the purchase of land for agricultural purposes. Its necessity has been intensified as the food problem has become more acute. Hence the constant attention given to the acquisition of land. During 1917 the delegates endorsed the purchase of 2,378 acres near Wisbech, 2,372 acres near Crews, 3,768 acres near Goole, and a small farm near Clitheroe. In addition, the village of Warburton and the surrounding land to the extent of 1,800 acres in Cheshire was acquired. Since then land to the extent of 30,000 acres has either been acquired or is in progress of negotiation. The establishment

of dairies at Rocester and Congleton marks the beginning of developments in tackling the milk problem by means of a department specially organised to deal with the supply and distribution as a national matter.

Five of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's farms are being worked for the purpose of dairying, cattle rearing, horse breeding, pig feeding, and the growing of wheat, fruit, and vegetables. These (Roden, Marden, Wisbech, Clitheroe, and Crewe) comprise 5,399 acres and supplied produce to the value of £68,714 during the twelvemonth.

We must also mention the way in which the federation has opened up relations with allotment holders and small cultivators through the distributive stores; the setting up of a seed warehouse and testing ground at Derby will materially help the movement for increased food production in our own country. Retail stores can usefully assist in this direction by organising special departments to deal with the requirements of the small cultivators in their own areas.

Supplementary to these efforts to secure some of the sources of food supply are the endeavours made to increase the capacity of existing works and to secure others. A vinegar brewery at Clayton (Manchester) was purchased; land obtained adjoining the Brislington butter factory; a large freehold building bought at Acton for the purpose of jam making; a flour mill secured at Hull (making the ninth flour mill now in possession of the Wholesale); and a grain warehouse purchased at Newcastle which will greatly facilitate the storage and distribution of food supplies on the north-east coast. Land has also been purchased at Birkenhead for the erection of another flour mill as soon as circumstances permit. These are but a few of the developments which, with the margarine factory which began operations towards the close of the year, constitute a strenuous endeavour to obtain food supplies. Several adjustments had to be made owing to the variation in the allocation of raw materials, and tea blending was commenced at Manchester on the arrival of tea cargoes, for the first time, at the northern port. Another minor point, but which has its use in showing how the trading departments have to watch the varying conditions of supply and demand, occurs with regard to meat. When the shortage came the Co-operative Wholesale Society's departments quickly entered the wet fish business and have been fostering the trade in that branch among retail societies generally.

Continuing the policy of joint action with the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society three estates of 1,716 acres were purchased in southern India as well as land in Ceylon and West Africa in connection with the co-operative enterprises to which reference was made last year.

BANKING DEVELOPMENTS.

The development of the policy of land ownership and of securing more of the raw materials of industry has necessitated a consideration of the capital resources of the society. The alteration of the rules whereby societies can take up shares at the rate of 30s. per member has given opportunity to many societies to contribute their quota to the great advance.

But for the many projects in view a larger proportion of permanent capital has become essential; hence the proposed issue of Ten Years' Development Bonds which are likely to appeal to a large circle of kindred organisations with capital to invest. The individual deposit accounts are now being worked through 480 societies and a series of conferences was held in 1917 to emphasise the importance of securing more fixed capital. The banking business of the Co-operative Wholesale Society has grown to large dimensions and the movement of funds (deposits and withdrawals) for the year amounted to £324,217,381, an increase of 16½ per cent. The number of current accounts now open at the C.W.S. Bank is as follows:—

Co-operative societies	971
Trade unions and friendly societies	562
Clubs and other mutual organisations	301
	<hr/>
	1,834

In addition, there are 155 deposit accounts of trade unions and friendly societies that have no current accounts with the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank.

CO-OPERATIVE COLLIERY.

For many years co-operators have urged the necessity for the movement to develop the business of colliery owners. The time has now arrived and, with the acquisition of the Shilbottle Colliery near Alnwick, the Co-operative Wholesale Society readily secured the approval of societies to purchase and work mines and collieries.

INDUSTRIAL ADVANCE.

Recognising the growing cost of living the Co-operative Wholesale Society has given substantial war bonuses in all departments and works while the conditions of service have approximated to the 48 hours' working week in many of its establishments. In others, where conditions were favourable, such a week has been fully established. But the greatest achievement as illustrating co-operative advance in securing good industrial conditions comes in the granting of a week's holiday, with pay, to all the workers in the mills, factories, and workshops who have been in the society's employ for upwards of twelve months. Holidays have always been given to the staffs; the extension of the policy to the manual workers is a recognition of a principle that many trade unions have advocated for years. Its adoption by the Co-operative Wholesale Society will give a lead to other employers and will probably inspire the recommendations of some of the committees that are considering problems of reconstruction after the war.

So much for the spirit of industry. In the material sense production has advanced—and advanced at a rate proportionately greater than the distributive trade, as is shown in the following table:—

DISTRIBUTIVE DEPARTMENTS' SALES.

Departments.	Year 1916.	Year 1917.	Comparison.	
			Increase.	Rate per cent.
	£	£	£	
Grocery and Provisions	43,255,740	47,326,265	4,070,525	9·4
Drapery, Woollens and Ready-mades, Boots and Shoes, Furnishing, &c.	8,974,334	10,383,867	1,409,533	15·7
Total Sales	52,230,074	57,710,132	5,480,058	10·4

PRODUCTIVE WORKS' SUPPLIES. (Included in above.)

Departments.	Year 1916.	Year 1917.	Comparison.	
			Increase.	Rate per cent.
	£	£	£	
Grocery and Provisions	14,084,388	15,919,041	1,834,653	13·0
Drapery, Woollens and Ready-mades, Boots and Shoes, Furnishing, &c.	2,178,997	2,563,235	384,238	17 6
Total Sales	16,263,385	18,482,276	2,218,891	13·6

Owing to the war the erection of buildings to fully meet the requirements of such turnovers has been impossible. But the directors have been looking ahead and land and buildings have been purchased at Irlam, Sheffield, Brislington, Leeds, Kettering, Reading, London, Wymondham, Wellingborough, Manchester, Northampton, Middleton, Silvertown, Congleton, and elsewhere for developments in connection with various activities. Other acquisitions include a pottery at Rotherham, the Pingle Mill at Delph, the African Oil Mills Co. Limited at Liverpool, the Avenue Weaving Shed at Chorley, and a clothing factory at Crewe—altogether a series of additions that, in the aggregate, will aid materially to the output of the Wholesale when normal times are resumed.

CONCLUSION.

Limitations of space preclude a fully comprehensive review of the Society's activities or adequate mention of such matter as the formation of a Research Department, the encouragement of welfare work among the women and girls employed at certain of the factories, and the way in which the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank has helped the War Bond investments. It is calculated that between £7,000,000 and £8,000,000 have been

invested by the society or withdrawn from the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank by co-operative societies, trade unions, and similar societies for loan to the Government for the prosecution of the war. Nor need we recapitulate the story of the world-wide ramifications of the concern and the strong hold it has upon the co-operative movement throughout the Empire. Suffice it to say that the Co-operative Wholesale Society has demonstrated its adaptability to the changing needs of the times, established its claim as the trading federation of the movement, and is proving itself able to set the pace in all departments of co-operative activity.

(b) Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited was registered in April of 1868 and commenced business in September of the same year.

Distribution.—The society, when started, was engaged in distribution of grocery goods only to retail societies then in existence, but from time to time this distributive trade was extended and a large trade is now also done in drapery, boots, and furniture and furnishings.

The trade for the first year (1869) amounted to £81,094, but this has gradually increased until 1917, the turnover for which amounted to £17,083,274, representing an increase over the year 1916 of 17·8 per cent.

The difficulties experienced by the society since the outbreak of war as regards the procuring of stocks and raw material for manufacturing purposes and the great scarcity of suitable labour, have been intensified with the continuation of hostilities, but, notwithstanding these handicaps, business has been conducted with a minimum of complaints.

Production.—Production was commenced in the year 1881 by the establishment of a factory for the making of shirts. This initial venture proved successful, and the productive side of the business has been steadily developed until at the end of the year 1917 there were 43 factories as well as six service departments, *i.e.*, engineering, motor engineering, building, electrical, and two carting departments in existence.

For the first complete year (1883) the transfers from productive departments amounted to £4,094, while for the year 1917 the transfers from 43 productive departments were £6,058,868 and the value of work done by the service departments amounted to £255,372.

Capital of the Society.—The capital of the society is raised by £1 shares, every society federated being required to take at least one share for every individual member of the society.

Deposits are accepted from societies at various rates of interest, and also from employees and members of retail co-operative societies. At the end of the first year (1869) the total amount of all classes of investment in the society was £5,174. At the end of 1917 the amount invested was £5,304,499, this sum including reserve and insurance funds. The number of shares subscribed by societies at the same date was 571,458, and this

may be regarded as a fair criterion of the membership of the Scottish Retail Societies federated in the Wholesale Society. In addition to the share capital subscribed by societies at the end of 1917 there were 25,001 shares held by 665 employees, the amount paid up in respect of same being £22,833. An Employee Shareholders' Association was formed in 1893, and after a very useful existence has attained its semi-jubilee in March, 1918.

Reserves and Depreciation.—Strict attention has been paid to the depreciation of all buildings, plant and machinery belonging to the society, the nominal value of same representing less than one-third of the original cost. Ample reserves have also been built up, the total amount of reserve and insurance funds at the end of 1917 being £950,425.

In addition to the manufacturing establishments, buying depôts have been opened in West Africa and at Winnipeg, Canada. The West African Dépôt has not been long in existence, but the advantages derived from the possession of the buying dépôt and elevators—numbering 19 in all—in Canada have been largely nullified, it is hoped, temporarily, on account of the changed conditions in the flour milling trade at the present time.

By the purchase of Jute Mills, Dundee, which have proved eminently successful since their acquisition, the trade for the first nine months being £84,604, the productive side of the society's drapery trade has been further developed; and its farming operations have also been enlarged by the purchase of Springside Estate, West Kilbride, Ayrshire, extending to 406 acres and containing three farms.

Future Prospects.—While the derangement of the economic life of the nation and the increasing tendency towards State Control of industry have rendered it impossible to sum up future prospects, the loyalty of societies affords a great measure of satisfaction, and with their wholehearted support the society will continue to expand in the future as it has done in the past.

The cordial relationship existing between the two Wholesale Societies since their inception is a great source of strength and is likely to become closer in the years to come.

(c) Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society.

The Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society Limited was registered in 1897 and commenced business at the beginning of 1898.

To begin with the business of the society was conducted entirely upon an agency basis, the society merely acted as agents for other firms in the agricultural supply business. A comparatively short experience, however, convinced the society that satisfactory business relations could only be established by dealing directly with the societies throughout the country. Larger premises were then secured and the direct supply of requirements from the society's own stocks was undertaken. Since that change in policy and in method the progress of the society has been practically uninterrupted.

In its earlier years the trade of the society was confined almost

entirely to such agricultural requisites as seeds, fertilisers, &c., but gradually the scope of its activities was widened so as to include all farming requirements.

In 1910 a further step was taken and a drapery department was formed. This step was taken so as to cater for the requirements of the societies taking up general store business, and also to cater for town distributive societies. In the same year the society undertook banking business. The reason for this departure was the attempt made to smash some rural societies by the withdrawal of banking facilities.

Sales.—The sales for 1897, the first year of the society's existence, amounted to £14,500, at the end of 1916 this has increased to £479,876, and for 1917 the sales amounted to £651,566.

Capital of the Society.—The capital of the society is at present raised by two classes of shares, ordinary and preference. The ordinary shares are nominally valued at £1 each. They may be held only by societies, each society is required to subscribe for at least one share for each individual member on its register. The ordinary shareholders must pay up at least 1s. on each share on application. Preference shares may be held by individuals. These shares are nominally valued at £5 each and must be fully paid up. When sufficient ordinary capital is available the rules provide for the redemption of the preference shares. Up to 1914 the ordinary shares were nominally valued at 5s. each, but the rapidly-expanding business of the society, together with the growing strength of the movement in Ireland, made a change both necessary and possible. When the change was made there were 23,000 5s. shares held by societies, but at the end of 1917 this had been reduced to 11,663 and since 1914 no 5s. shares have been issued.

The capital of the society at the end of 1917 was as follows :—

Paid up Ordinary Shares	£11,175
„ Preference Shares	£10,075
	<hr/>
Total	£21,250

Reserves and Depreciation.—During the whole history of the society special attention has been paid to adequate depreciation of premises, plant and machinery, live and rolling stock. Due provision has also been made for a reserve fund. At the end of 1916 the reserve fund amounted to £8,000. At the end of 1917 this figure was reduced to £2,500 by writing off premises, plant and machinery, and rolling stock.

Future Prospects.—The prospects for the future are good in the extreme. The co-operative movement in Ireland is growing both in the extent and variety of activity, and the Trading Federation must partake of this growth. Given adequate capital and an early return to peace conditions, the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society's rate of progression may be very much greater in the future than it was in the past.

The following figures will illustrate the years 1916 and 1917:—

	Society Members.	Ordinary Shares.	Pref. Members.	Pref. Shares.	Loans.	Sales.	Interest on Capital.	Surplus.
1916	264	£7,139	117	£8,680	£49,699	£479,876	£800	£4,989
1917	334	11,175	122	10,075	61,971	651,566	1,060	5,576
Increase	70	£4,036	5	£1,395	£12,272	£171,690	£260	£587

SUMMARY OF THE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

	Society Members.	Shares.	Loans.	Sales.	Interest on Capital.	Surplus.
1916.		£	£	£	£	£
The English Wholesale	1,189 ..	2,653,774 ..	4,445,517 ..	52,290,074 ..	121,328 ..	1,656,389
The Scottish Wholesale	262 ..	522,453 ..	4,042,183 ..	14,502,410 ..	25,931 ..	636,174
The Irish Wholesale.....	381 ..	15,819 ..	49,699 ..	479,876 ..	800 ..	4,989
	1,832	3,192,046	8,537,399	67,212,360	148,054	2,297,552
1917.		£	£	£	£	£
The English Wholesale.....	1,192 ..	2,981,133 ..	3,956,192 ..	57,710,133 ..	148,703 ..	1,315,155
The Scottish Wholesale	263 ..	593,239 ..	3,664,573 ..	*17,079,842 ..	28,617 ..	500,915
The Irish Wholesale.....	453 ..	21,216 ..	61,971 ..	651,566 ..	1,060 ..	5,576
	1,908	3,595,588	7,682,741	75,441,541	173,380	1,821,646
1916	1,715 ..	3,192,046 ..	8,537,399 ..	67,212,360 ..	148,054 ..	2,390,577
1917	1,908 ..	3,595,588 ..	7,682,741 ..	75,441,541 ..	173,380 ..	1,821,646
Increase ..	193 ..	403,542 ..	— ..	8,129,181 ..	25,326 ..	—
Decrease..	— ..	— ..	854,658 ..	— ..	— ..	568,931

* This amount only includes sales to members and non-members in Great Britain, and is exclusive of a sum of £235,989 due us by the Flour Mills Control Committee for Flour Subsidy. We note that in the figures for 1915 sales there were included (1) a sum of £48,789 which was for a sale of wheat to the Canadian Government, and (2) rents and feu duties £1,201.

4. DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

	Societies.	Members.	Shares.	Loans.	Sales.	Surplus.
			£	£	£	£
1916	1,362 ..	3,520,227 ..	47,153,203 ..	6,169,149 ..	121,623,550 ..	16,330,079
1917	1,366 ..	3,788,490 ..	49,334,049 ..	6,362,444 ..	142,003,612 ..	15,916,591
Increase	4 ..	268,263 ..	2,230,846 ..	193,295 ..	20,375,062 ..	—
Decrease ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	413,488

5. CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION.

We have been able to obtain the usual information from the Productive Societies in regard to their progress, also from the two Wholesale Societies as to their productive departments, and this information is included in the appendix to the report. We submit a summary of the returns giving particulars for 1916 and 1917:—

(a) SUMMARISED STATEMENT.

	Number of Societies.	Number of Emp'ys.	Capital Employed.	Trade during Year.	Surplus.	Defi- ciency.
			£	£	£	£
Ireland .....1916	..	..	..	..	..	..
"1917	..	..	..	..	..	..
England and Wales .....1916	87	7646	965007	2788986	184779	1301
"1917	88	7167	985268	3199178	218843	1497
Scotland .....1916	14	2638	806597	1677505	149068	..
"1917	14	1997	819686	1947256	145897	286
English Wholesale .....1916	1	18673	4193145	16867509	374780	..
"1917	1	19082	4907873	18581555	418653	1266
Scottish Wholesale .....1916	1	6867	1809962	4708104	103795	..
"1917	1	6977	1828712	6294857	123117	..
Total .....1916	103	35824	7274711	25587104	812417	1301
"1917	99	35228	8041539	30022871	901510	3049

(b) SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIES.

		1916. £	1917. £
Cotton, Linen, Silk and Wool	{ England	864,158 ..	1,102,408
	{ Scotland	211,020 ..	285,054
	{ Wholesale Societies	1,345,940 ..	1,714,457
		2,421,118 ..	3,101,919
Boots, Shoes, and Leather ..	{ England	920,541 ..	953,498
	{ Wholesale Societies	1,294,924 ..	1,444,677
		2,215,465 ..	2,398,175
Metal and Hardware	{ England	72,503 ..	68,971
	{ Wholesale Society	85,498 ..	82,359
		158,001 ..	151,330
Woodworking	{ England	42,331 ..	47,624
	{ Wholesale Societies	198,438 ..	205,193
		240,769 ..	252,817
Building and Quarrying	England	13,406 ..	7,167
Printing and Bookbinding ..	{ England	251,654 ..	287,821
	{ Scotland	21,094 ..	23,496
	{ Wholesale Societies	420,548 ..	494,570
		693,296 ..	805,887
Corn Milling	{ England ..	246,526 ..	247,452
	{ Wholesale Societies	11,828,875 ..	13,511,698
		12,075,401 ..	13,759,150

		1916, £	1917, £
Baking	{ England	93,908 ..	104,478
	{ Scotland	1,420,009 ..	1,615,187
		<u>1,513,917 ..</u>	<u>1,719,665</u>
Laundries	{ England	87,638 ..	96,934
	{ Scotland	25,332 ..	23,549
		<u>113,020 ..</u>	<u>120,483</u>
Various	{ England	191,318 ..	282,820
	{ Wholesale Societies	5,901,393 ..	7,423,458
		<u>6,092,711 ..</u>	<u>7,706,278</u>
Total, 1916			25,537,104
„ 1917			30,022,871
Increase			<u>4,485,767</u>

6. FARMING BY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

(See Appendix I., page 326.)

(a) FARMING BY WHOLESALE OR DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

Section.	ACREAGE.		Capital.	Rent.		Surplus	Defi- ciency.	Number of Societies.
	Owued.	Rented.		Interest	Rent where rented.			
			£	£	£	£	£	
Midland	6329½	3447	183,799	6,864	8,118	10,333	1,884	29
Northern	573½	1977	44 130	1 9¼	3 412	4,175	—	20
North-Western..	6546½	1151½	289,371	7,607	2,141	13,321	3,400	38
Scottish	974	545	63,798	2,735	3,054	12,025	—	5
Southern	597	184	33 523	620	384	1,177	461	6
South-Western..	2560	390½	68,605	3,355	724	—	2,768	4
Western	26	175	300	15	181	128	—	3
Total....	17606½	7870	633 525	23,120	18,014	41,159	8,513	105

(b) FARMING SOCIETIES.

Section.	ACREAGE.		Capital.	Rent.		Surplus	Deficiency.	Number of Societies.
	Owned.	Rented.		Interest	Rent where rented.			
Southern	233	£ 1,733	£ 38	£ 170	£ ..	£ 252	1
Western.....	..	574	3,000	..	403	1,703	..	1
Total....	..	807	4,733	38	572	1,703	252	2

The figures given above are up to and including April 18. The list will be completed for the final report.

7. AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.

CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM,

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Compared with those for the year ending 31st December, 1915, the statistics of co-operative agricultural societies show a net decrease of eighteen societies. This is partly accounted for by war conditions, which have, in some instances, induced societies to go out of business, but mainly to a somewhat drastic revision of the societies and the removal from the list of those which, from one cause or another, might be regarded as ineffective.

The statistics given below are for the year ended 31st December, 1916. Full particulars for the year ended 31st December, 1917, are not yet available; but there has been, during that year, a very large increase in the number of societies, some 260 in all having been formed, of which about 200 were allotment societies, the increase in these being one of the most remarkable features of the past year—an increase which, as yet, shows no sign of abating.

The Agricultural Organisation Society has been called upon to assist and co-operate with several of the Government Departments in regard to different branches of pioneer work which have been brought into prominence owing to war conditions. In connection with the Food Production Department, the problem of the conservation of surpluses of home-grown fruit and vegetables has been and is being dealt with.

The Agricultural Organisation Society has also collaborated with the Board of Agriculture in a scheme for the co-operative distribution of calves, and in the organising of the Co-operative Cheese Schools; and, at the special request of the Board, the Agricultural Organisation Society has undertaken the organisation of milk depôts in districts from which milk is not at present

being collected and sold to the towns, the Board advancing one-half of the cost of equipment on loan.

With the Ministry of Munitions, the Agricultural Organisation Society has worked in connection with a number of matters, *e.g.*, a proposed new source of potash supply, the supply of agricultural implements, &c., and the supply of fruit and vegetables to munition canteens.

The schemes now so effectively in operation under the Canteen Committee of the War Office for obtaining agricultural produce, and for the disposal of waste products of the Army camps, were also initiated by the Agricultural Organisation Society.

1916.	Purchase of Require- ments.	Egg and Poultry.	Dairy.	Co-op. Auctions and Fruit Societies.	Small Holdings and Allot- ments.	Mis- cell'neous and Credit Societies.	Total.
No. of Societies ..	215	40	85	23	174	45	532
No. of Members..	29,965	4,063	4,082	2,609	17,449	4,512	62,680
Turnover	£3,427,810	£194,289	£993,163	£322,434	£18,286	£13,588	£4,961,520

SCOTLAND.

The Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society reports that during the year, in spite of very great difficulties, owing to the depletion of staffs, all the existing societies have been consolidated and developed. Continuous help has been given in the difficult problems of the purchase of supplies, &c. Seventeen new societies stand to the credit of the year's work.

The milk dépôts continue to be successful, and by the formation of associations under the society's guidance, producers of milk have been enabled to obtain a substantially improved price, and by co-operative organisation this benefit has been secured to the producer without correspondingly increasing the cost to the consumer.

Federation of local societies is advocated and instances given of the benefits accruing, not only by federation, but also by joint committees for purchase.

The society has drawn up a code of model rules for the use of local societies for co-operative credit, and some time ago made an application to the Development Commissioners for a loan of £5,000, but this request was not granted, consequently progress in the direction of forming credit banks is very slow.

Assistance has been given to societies in securing artificial manures, fertilisers, binder twine, seeds, and other requirements, which has resulted in a great saving to the societies, and at the moment, in consequence of the disastrous harvest in the Western Highlands and outer islands, the society is organising on a large scale for supplies of fodder stuffs being sent out for the maintenance of live stock.

One hundred and fifty-four societies are now affiliated to the society.

IRELAND.

On the 31st of March, 1917, there were 958 co-operative societies in Ireland organised by or in affiliation with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and having a membership of 106,734. The trade turnover for the year 1916 is shown in the Report of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society at £6,099,880. The societies may be classified as follows:—

Dairy Societies	346
Auxiliary Dairy Societies	95
Agricultural Societies	234
Credit Societies (Agricultural Banks)	224
Poultry Keepers	12
Home Industries	9
Miscellaneous	30
Flax.....	6
Federations	2
	<hr/>
	958

The Irish Agricultural Organisation Society has continued during the year the policy which it pursued at the outbreak of the war. It has worked to increase tillage and for the production of an increased food supply. It has encouraged farmers to co-operate for the reduction (or, where practicable, the elimination of middle profits) with the double object of securing to the producers a reasonable remuneration for their labour, outlay and skill, and of reducing the cost of production for the consumers. Whilst discouraging profiteering amongst producers, it has endeavoured to secure for them the due reward of their industry, and to increase their output. With the latter object in view it has continued to press on them the necessity for the procuring of the most modern types of power machinery which small farmers can obtain only by co-operation through societies. It has also encouraged the erection by societies of milling facilities for the preparation of wheat and oats for food, and where the conditions admit of it, for the preparation of cattle foods.

The relationship of rural to urban societies is engaging the attention of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, which is anxious that an intelligent and sympathetic understanding should exist in each branch of the movement, of the needs and aims of the other. Informal conferences between officials of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and of the Irish Co-operative Conference Association have taken place with, it is believed, advantage to the co-operative movement in Ireland as a whole, and the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society has acted effectively as a trade nexus for the two types of organisation.

8. SMALL SAVINGS OR PENNY BANKS.

Below we give particulars abstracted from statistical returns supplied by societies relating to the Small Savings Departments for the year 1916; the particulars for 1917 are included as far as available, and these will be completed after Congress.

Section.	No. of Societies. 1916.	No. of Societies. 1917.	Amount of Deposits. 1916. £	Amount of Deposit. 1917. £
Ireland	5	4	2,754	323
Midland	105	109	417,611	463,239
Northern	64	73	143,915	170,851
North-Western	238	264	987,048	1,095,765
Scottish.....	100	108	326,436	361,091
Southern	89	128	239,696	344,118
South-Western	34	46	72,317	91,623
Western	49	50	111,114	117,272
	684	782	£2,300,891	£2,644,282

9. CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE.

The following is a comparison of the business of the Co-operative Insurance Society Limited—the Joint Insurance department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited—for the years 1915, 1916, and 1917, and a statement of its financial position at 31st December, 1917.

The expense of Collective Life Assurance, with the new scale of benefits now in force, is only 3 per cent of the premiums.

COLLECTIVE LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	No. of Societies Assured.	Premiums Received.	No. of Members of Assured Societies.	Claims Paid.	
				No.	Amount.
					£
1915	506	129,686	1,134,844	19,886	124,221
1916	581	179,700	1,380,139	23,843	147,165
1917	616	226,223	1,578,074	27,746	179,127

LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS (INDIVIDUALS).

Year.	ORDINARY.			SPECIAL.			INDUSTRIAL.		
	Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.	
		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
			£			£			£
1915	38,155	107	8,978	17,353	599	6,001	5,118	285	2,626
1916	45,662	102	16,587	20,604	661	7,473	6,560	297	2,967
1917	56,412	274	22,904	23,873	795	8,729	8,212	369	3,593

In 1917 £1,559. 6s. was received for Annuities granted.

FIRE, AND ACCIDENT AND GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	FIRE.			ACCIDENT AND GENERAL.		
	Premiums Received. †	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received. †	Claims Paid.	
		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
			£			£
1915	64,173	1,816	15,282	20,395	1,442	6,977
1916	65,945	1,800	15,022	25,561	1,845	10,245
1917	73,636	2,025	26,494	29,737	1,696	12,798

† Accident, Burglary, Fidelity, Plate Glass, Motor Vehicle and Live Stock Insurances are included in the Accident and General Account.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.			
		Fatal.	Non-Fatal.	No.	Amount.
	£				£
1915	32,864	22	2,375	2,397	16,381
1916	34,111	21	2,319	2,340	16,085
1917	36,642	22	2,159	2,181	17,429

In 1917 the total premium income in all departments amounted to

£456,304. 6s. 6d.

The claims paid were 35,158 in number, amounting to a total of

£271,074. 13s. 6d.

INSURANCE FUNDS.

Year.	Life (Four Sections).	Fire.	Employers' Liability.	Accident and General.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1915	323,004	189,760	48,754	35,649	597,167
1916	372,853	197,894	53,356	40,025	664,128
1917	436,767	209,911	59,331	46,430	752,439

Out of the profit and loss account, after paying interest on capital at the usual rate of 5 per cent, dividends of 2s. in the £ to members and 1s. in the £ to non-members upon their fire insurance premiums in 1916 were declared.

10. JOURNALS OF THE MOVEMENT.

Again this year we have not made application to societies generally for particulars as to journals and records published by them, but only to those printed below.

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY PAPERS AND RECORDS.

	No. of Societies Supplied.	Circulation.
*"Co-operative Union Review" .....	.....	6,000
*"Co-operative Educator" .....	.....	6,000
The "Co-operative News"	980	99,000
The "Millgate Monthly"	585	12,000
"Our Circle"	432	23,000
"Scottish Co-operator"	221	27,650
"Co-partnership"	—	8,000
†"Co-operation in Agriculture"	—	—
The "A.U.C.E. Journal"	728	12,000
‡The "Wheatsheaf"	523	603,000
The "Producer"	754	24,500

* Issued quarterly. † Suspended during the war.

‡ In addition, 381 societies publish "Wheatsheaf" local pages, aggregating 1,000 pp. monthly, and an Agricultural Edition is supplied to 39 societies, taking 3,000 copies.

11. NEW SOCIETIES REGISTERED IN 1917.

(See Appendix II., page 330.)

The Registrar of Friendly Societies and the Assistant Registrars for Scotland and Ireland have furnished us with a list of societies registered in 1917. This list is printed in full in the Appendix.

The total number for England and Wales is 302, as compared with 99 registered during 1916. The societies are varied in their character as will be noticed by the classification in the following summary :—

(a) ENGLAND AND WALES.

Distributive	10
Agricultural and Farmers' Trading	27
Small Holdings and Allotments.....	199
Egg and Poultry	18
Milk Producers	3
Fruit and Vegetable.....	1
Land, Tenants, and Garden Suburbs	3
Pig Keepers	3
Clubs	11
Fishermen's	6
Women's Institute.....	1
Unclassified	20

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The distributive societies are as follows :—*Birmingham Industrial; Potter's Bar and District; St. George's, Netherhampton; Devonport Royal Dockyard Canteen and Restaurant; Milford Haven Industrial; Basildon; Builth Wells and District; Deudraeth; Llandegfan; Kingston and District.

* Birmingham has been reregistered under a new register number, as it is amalgamated with another society.

(b) SCOTLAND.

Sixty-eight societies have been registered in Scotland during 1917. This number includes the Kilsyth Society which has amalgamated with Banton Co-operative Society, and the Aberdeen Northern Co-operative Society which has been converted from registration under the Companies Act.

These societies are classified as follows:—

Distributive	5
Agricultural, Dairy	55
Insurance and Credit	3
Food Producers	1
Farmers Trading and Horse Breeding.....	3
Unclassified	1
	<hr/>
	68

(c) IRELAND.

Seventy-seven new societies have been registered in Ireland during 1917. They are classified as follows:—

Distributive	3
Agricultural and Dairy	50
Creameries	11
Milling	2
Small Holdings and Allotments	1
Flax	7
Unclassified	3
	<hr/>
	77

The distributive societies are Clonmel, Lisbellaw, and Waterford.

12. SOCIETIES DISSOLVED OR AMALGAMATED IN 1917.

(See Appendix III., page 349.)

From a perusal of the list of societies removed from the register during 1917, which appears in the appendix, it will be noted that many societies' names are included as "final winding-up notices having been received." Many of these have appeared in previous lists.

This year the Registrar appears to have adopted a new method in so far as regards amalgamation of two societies, by including in this list the names of both societies, and showing as a new registration the amalgamated society under a new number. This may be rather misleading, unless the list is carefully perused, as, for instance, the Birmingham Industrial Society (Registered No. 2252, R. Warwick) is shown as being removed by amalgamation with Moor Pool Supply Association (Registered No. 5064, R. Staffs.) to form 6309, R. Warwick.

Of the seventeen distributive societies included in the list, six have either amalgamated or transferred their engagements to other societies.

Of the ten productive societies, five have been taken over by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, to be worked by them as productive departments.

Distributive	17
Productive	10
Agricultural and Farmers	53
Creameries ..	4
Small Holdings and Allotments	8
Garden Suburbs	1
Land, Loan, and Bank	4
Clubs	11
Egg and Poultry	6
Home Industries	4
Unclassified	21
	<hr/> 139

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED.

13. SOCIETIES AFFILIATED TO THE UNION during 1917.

The societies in the following list have joined the Union since last Congress :—

Ireland : Clonmel, Enniscorthy, Waterford.

Northern Section : Broughton Moor.

North-Western Section : Cowms Lepton, Lepton Town Bottom, Rochdale Provident, Smallbridge Conservative, Sychton, Tideswell, Tottington Industrial.

Scottish Section : Abbey Green (Lesmahagow), Auchterarder Feus, Carronhall and Kinnaird, Laurieston, Leadhills, Lennox, Old Cumnock, Patna, Redding.

Southern Section : Sturminster Newton Farmers' Co-operative Stores.

South-Western Section : Devonport Royal Dockyard Canteen and Restaurant, Falmouth, St. Mawes.

Western Section : Duffryn, Penrhiwceiber.

14. SOCIETIES WHICH HAVE WITHDRAWN during 1917.

The undermentioned societies have ceased to be members of the Union for the reasons stated :—

By amalgamation or transfer of engagements—Cliffe-at-Hoo, Darite, Delph Woollen, Napton, Planet Mutual Insurance, Salterforth, Sharnbrook, and Tunstead.

By ceasing to exist—Canteen and Mess and Medway Ship Barge.

By being struck off—Blakesley, Federated Growers, Great Glen, Lakenheath, Moretonhampstead, and Windermere:

15. SUMMARY OF MEMBERS.

Section.	Total No. of Societies.	Members of Union.	Non-members of Union.	Per Cent Members of Union.
Ireland	49	32	17	65·3
Midland	212	186	26	87·7
Northern	139	135	4	97·1
North-Western ..	453	414	39	91·4
Scottish	276	225	51	81·5
Southern	185	165	20	89·2
South-Western..	76	67	9	88·2
Western	88	81	7	92·0
	<u>1,478</u>	<u>1,305</u>	<u>173</u>	

† Societies members of the Union in 1918..... 1,305

† Societies members of the Union in 1917..... 1,308

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP.

	Number of Societies.	Per cent.	Membership of Societies.	Per cent.
† Members of Union	1,305	88·3	3,720,339	97·00
† Non-members of Union	173	11·7	115,037	3·00
Total No. of Societies	<u>1,478</u>		<u>Total Membership</u>	<u>3,835,376</u>

† These figures refer only to Societies included in the Statistical Return.

16. CENTRAL BOARD.

The Central Board has met on two occasions since last Congress. The first meeting was held on the premises of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Leman Street, London, on Tuesday, 16th October, 1917, on the eve of the National Emergency Conference.

The Board discussed several matters of importance relating to internal affairs, after which Mr. Wilson (of the Ministry of Labour) gave a detailed explanation of the interim report on Joint Standing Industrial Councils. A number of questions were put to Mr. Wilson by members of the Board, which were satisfactorily answered; afterwards a committee was appointed to consider the report and suggest to the United Board what should be the nature of the reply to the Ministry of Labour.

The Committee submitted a report indicating the machinery which had been set up in the co-operative movement for the settlement of disputes and the improvement of conditions of employment. First the Hours and Wages Board to deal directly with the A.U.C.E., failing an agreement, the service of the District

Conciliation Boards is called upon, and if an agreement is not reached the question in dispute is forwarded to the National Conciliation Board, presided over by an independent chairman. For Craft Unions there is in existence a joint committee consisting of an equal number of representatives from the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee and the Co-operative Union.

The report further outlined the developments foreshadowed in the work of the Union when the Labour Adviser's Department became an accomplished fact; particulars were also given of the "Welfare" work at present being undertaken by some societies, and suggested how this may be developed after the war, and that meetings of committees of societies, along with the whole of the employees of the respective societies, might be held to discuss matters of mutual interest.

This report was forwarded to the Ministry of Labour, who expressed their satisfaction at the work being undertaken by the co-operative movement,

The question as to when the Labour Adviser, who had been appointed some months previously, should commence his duties was considered, and after a lengthy discussion it was eventually decided that as there had been no change in the position so far as the staff were concerned, the matter should be reconsidered in six months' time.

The agenda of business for the National Emergency Conference and the amendments sent in by societies were next considered and decisions come to as to the action the Board should take at the conference.

The draft scheme for direct representation in Parliament and on local administrative bodies, as prepared by the United Board and the Joint Parliamentary Committee, was submitted and considered paragraph by paragraph. Many alterations were suggested and adopted both in the scheme and policy, and instructions given for amended copies to be printed for submitting to the conference.

The representatives of the Board on the Joint Parliamentary Committee reported that a Sub-committee of the Joint Parliamentary Committee had been considering how the work of that committee could best be carried out under the then existing conditions, and the necessity for prompt attention to the many matters dealing with food control and the regulations emanating from the various Government departments. It was stated that the Joint Parliamentary Committee was now divided into two sub-committees, one composed of representatives of the Wholesale Society to look after the interests of the movement from a "wholesale" point of view; and another, composed of the representatives of the Union to look after the interests of the movement from the retail distributive point of view. It was stated that to successfully carry out this duty it would necessitate practically one or more representatives from the Co-operative Union on that committee being in constant attendance at the office of the Parliamentary Committee to deal promptly with matters of importance arising and to bring them before the Ministry of Food.

An application was submitted from the English Women's Guild for a renewal of the annual grant of £400 from the funds of the Union, and after consideration

it was resolved "That we grant the sum of £40 to the English Women's Guild on the same terms and conditions as the grants are made to the other guilds."

Further matters discussed were (a) certain recommendations *re* carrying out the suggestions contained in the report of the Survey Committee submitted to the Swansea Congress; (b) the question of arranging a Special Trades and Business Congress; (c) the withdrawal of representation from the War Emergency Workers' National Committee.

The second meeting was held in Holyoake House, Manchester, on Friday, 12th April, and Saturday, 13th April, 1918, the chief business for consideration being the report of the Central Board to Congress and the report of the Survey Committee.

17. UNITED BOARD.

The Sectional Boards appointed the following members as their representatives on the United Board:—

Section.	Representatives.
Irish	Mr. W. J. McGuffin.
Midland	Messrs. G. Bastard and J. G. Shacklock.
Northern	Messrs. S. Galbraith, M.P., and J. Murdoch.
North-Western ..	Messrs. G. Goodenough, F. Hayward, G. Major, and J. Morrell.
Scottish	Messrs. G. Bisset and G. Wilson.
Southern	Messrs. W. T. Charter and R. Rowsell.
South-Western ..	Mr. W. H. Watkins.
Western	Mr. R. R. Chappell.

Since last Congress the Board has held nine meetings, viz.:—30th June, 15th August, 22nd September, 24th November, 1917; 19th January, 7th February (special), 28th February (special), 16th March, and 20th April, 1918.

Mr. G. Goodenough was appointed chairman of the Board for the year.

The special meetings held on 7th and 28th February were called to consider a resolution submitted by the Manchester Congress Reception Committee suggesting that Congress should be postponed for this year. The Board decided that it was imperative that the Congress should take place as usual, and remitted the matter back to the Reception Committee in order to give them an opportunity of reconsidering the question. A special meeting of the Congress Reception Committee was called with the result that they reaffirmed their previous decision. Liverpool Society, after making local inquiries, sent an invitation for Congress to meet in that city, which invitation was accepted by the United Board.

A joint meeting of the United Board and the executive committee of the A.U.C.E., was held on 30th June, 1917, to consider a suggestion made by Mr. F. H. McLeod, National Service Department (General Trades section), that the co-operative movement should set up a standing committee to consider the substitution of employees in the co-operative movement, taking the places of munition

workers called up for military service. A long discussion took place after which both parties considered the matter and eventually the following resolution was adopted :—

That, owing to the serious depletion of the staffs of all co-operative societies, and the impossibility of releasing any additional members, this meeting is of opinion that it is not advisable to set up a committee as suggested by Mr. McLeod, of the General Trades section of the National Service Department.

A joint meeting of the United Board and the joint Parliamentary committee took place on 15th August, 1917, to consider the issue of a circular on the question of direct Representation in Parliament, and the necessity for holding immediately a Special Conference to consider matters of importance.

A second joint meeting of the United Board and the Joint Parliamentary Committee was held on 20th April, 1918, to consider the difficulties of carrying on the Parliamentary representation work.

18. THE OFFICE COMMITTEE.

Section.	Representatives.
Irish	Mr. J. W. McGuffin.
Midland	Mr. G. Bastard.
Northern	Mr. S. Galbraith, M.P.
North-Western	Messrs. G. Goodenough and F. Hayward.
Scottish	Mr. G. Wilson.
Southern	Mr. W. T. Charter.
South-Western	Mr. W. H. Watkins.
Western	Mr. R. R. Chappell.

Mr. G. Goodenough has acted as chairman of the committee.

19. COMMITTEES OF THE UNION.

The following is a list of committees which have been in existence during the past year :—

- (a) Committee on Education.
- (b) Publications Committee.
- (c) Joint Propaganda Committee.
- (d) Joint Parliamentary Committee.
- (e) Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee.
- (f) Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators.
- (g) United Advisory Council of Trade-unionists and Co-operators.
- (h) Co-operative Defence Committee.

The reports submitted by the various committees are given in their order as usual in this report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

20. CENTRAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(See Appendix IV., pages 356 to 365).

The constitution of the Committee for the past Congress year (1917-19'8) has been as follows:—

Representing the Sections:

Irish	Mr. H. Archer.	Scottish	Mr. J. Lucas, M.A.
Midland	Mr. J. Butcher.		F.E.I.S.
Northern	Mr. W. R. Rae.	Southern	Mr. A Hainsworth.
North-Western .	Mr. E. Booth.	South-Western .	Rev. G. A. Ramsay,
	Mr. S. Fairbrother.		B.A.
		Western	Mr. J. P. Davies.

Representing Educational Committees' Associations:

Midland	Mr. T. Hackett.	Southern	Miss J. P. Madams.
Northern	Mr. W. Clayton.	South-Western .	Mr. W. White.
North-Western .	Mr. J. F. Ashworth.		
	Mr. E. Couldwell.		

Representing the Women's Co-operative Guild: Mrs. Nevitt.

Chairman of Committee: Mr. W. R. Rae.

Adviser of Studies: Prof. F. Hall, M.A., B.Com.

Secretary to Committee: Mr. C. E. Wood.

GENERAL REVIEW.

Once again the committee have to report that their work in all of its branches has been hindered by the war; but some branches have developed despite the many handicaps imposed by war conditions. Thus, the number of students in the women's classes has increased, and the number of students in the correspondence classes of a non-technical nature has been well maintained. There has been an increase in the total number of students in classes organised in the Committee's Educational Programme.

During the year, the committee have had a joint conference with the executive of the North-Western Educational Committees' Association with regard to the Survey Committee's Report, but it has not been found possible, so far, to arrange meetings with the executives of other educational associations.

The Co-operative Educator has maintained its circulation, and the Co-operators' Educational League is growing in membership weekly. The

number of members at the present time is approximately 400, exclusive of the members of the College Herald circle.

The educational work directed by local committees has again suffered from war conditions, but there has been a tendency in some cases to exaggerate the difficulties of the situation. It is not fully realised that educational work is a pressing necessity if we are to be prepared to meet after-war conditions.

The new Educational Programme has been issued during the year, but owing to further contemplated changes and the scarcity of paper, it was issued in abbreviated form. A considerable enlargement must take place in the near future. The programme of work outlined in the syllabuses emphasises once more the need which has arisen, and which will grow quickly in the near future, for greater assistance in both the teaching and administrative sections of the Education Department. Unless such increases are shortly made, future developments will be retarded. The programme includes a large number of new courses, but the technical instruction classes have not yet received the attention which is necessary, and which will be given to them during the next two years. The committee are fully cognisant of the importance of this work among co-operative employees, and will take up the development of this phase of their work at the earliest possible moment.

Lectures to secretaries have this session again been abandoned owing to the difficulties of travelling and the pressure of business, and the same causes have prevented the arrangement of the same number of lectures to managers as in previous years.

Work of a somewhat allied character to the lectures to managers has been proposed in the holding of a series of trades and business conferences for the discussion of technical matters affecting co-operative industry. Preliminary arrangements for a series of conferences were made, but almost at the last moment the conferences were abandoned on account of travelling and other difficulties.

The educational committees' associations have continued their work during the past session on normal lines. The principal outstanding feature of their work has been the arrangement of week-end schools by the Northern Education Association and the Midland Education Association.

The National Co-operative Men's Guild has continued its work under great difficulties during the past year. Further calls have been made upon the membership of the guild for service in the forces, and the work of the branches has suffered in consequence. We believe there is a great future before the guild, as many enquiries are being received from persons anxious to establish branches in connection with their societies.

It was not found possible to arrange an Easter gathering in 1917, as was pointed out in our last report, and the difficulties of holding such a gathering have proved even greater this year, for which reason the meetings have had to be once more abandoned.

CLASS WORK.

The class work for the session 1917-18 has naturally been affected by war influences, the total number of students during the session having been 19,828* in 549* classes as against 18,232 in 531 classes for the Congress year 1916-17 (see Appendix IV.)

New subjects have been introduced in the correspondence courses, and an increasing number of students have been attracted to the advanced courses. It has again been found that many of the students utilise the correspondence courses for the purpose of following up the work they have done at the summer schools.

The women's classes give evidence this year of greater success than ever, the number of classes formed during the present session being 52 as against 34 in 1916-17, and the number of students 1094* as against 1,022 in 1916-17. The class work in the future is likely to be increased by the arrangement of special classes for the purpose of carrying out the decision of the Swansea Congress in regard to Direct Co-operative Representation.

EXAMINATIONS.

The number of entries for the examinations shows a further decrease this year, the decrease being principally due to war conditions. Full details are given in the appendix, where particulars are also given regarding certificates, grants, and prizes, together with the usual comparisons with previous years. During the year the committee have revised their scheme of grants, prizes, and certificates, and the revised conditions will come into operation in the session 1918-19.

WORK OF LOCAL COMMITTEES.

In some cases, societies are now beginning to feel the effects of controlled prices, leading to reduced profits, and a reduced grant for educational purposes. That grants should be reduced at a time like the present, when education is more than ever needed, is regrettable; and the downward tendency of grants for educational purposes emphasises the value of the recommendation of the Survey Committee that educational grants should be based upon membership and not upon profits. Societies are strongly recommended to amend their rules in accordance with this recommendation.

There has been a welcome tendency for societies to arrange week-end schools, and these schools, without exception, have been extremely successful. The number of schools at present arranged is far from adequate, however, and the Central Education Committee would welcome greater activity in this direction. A pamphlet prepared by the Central Education Committee on "The Organisation of Week-end Schools" should be of great assistance to societies proposing to undertake this form of educational activity.

* Returns not complete.

WEEK-END SCHOOLS AND GUEST HOUSES.

The increase in the number of week-end schools held during the past year has been very welcome, not only for the work done at them, but because of the increased interest in education which they indicate and stimulate. One of the great difficulties encountered in developing the week-end school is the lack of suitable accommodation, and this has prompted the committee to make preliminary inquiries regarding the possibility of acquiring guest houses in different parts of the country. These inquiries are being continued.

CO-OPERATIVE SUMMER SCHOOLS.

These schools have once more met with great success. Three schools were arranged, and provisional arrangements were begun for other schools which had to be abandoned on account of the difficulties arising out of war conditions. The schools were held at Bradley Court, Gloucestershire, for four weeks, from 4th August to 1st September, 1917; London, for two weeks, from 1st September to 14th September, 1917; Plymouth (jointly with the Plymouth Education Committee), for two weeks, from 8th September to 22nd September, 1917. The number of students at the schools was as follows :—

Bradley Court	147
London	180
Plymouth	70

Students' reports of the schools have appeared in the *Co-operative Educator* and in local "Records" and "Wheatsheafs."

CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE.

The demand for a Co-operative College continues to grow; and the week-end schools and summer schools have familiarised students and others with the type of work which would be undertaken at the college and stimulated their interest in its establishment. One hundred meetings have passed resolutions recommending the establishment of the college. At the outbreak of war, the Central Education Committee were preparing a scheme for establishing the college, but the continuation of the war has delayed the completion of their preparations. The subject has recently received further consideration as a result of a resolution passed by the new Swindon Society asking the Co-operative Wholesale Society to build such a college as a memorial to their employes who have fallen in the war; and the Central Education Committee are seeking an interview with the Co-operative Wholesale Society on the matter with a view to the formulation of a scheme which would provide for the establishment and maintenance of a college as a national memorial to all Co-operative employes who have lost their lives during the war. Societies which are contemplating some memorial to their employes and members who have lost their lives during the war are urged to consider the possibility of linking up the memorial with the proposed college.

CONGRESS MEETINGS.

As indicated in the report last year, a Special Educational Conference was held on the Saturday afternoon preceding the opening of the Swansea Congress, when the Adviser of Studies gave an address upon "The New Educational Programme and the Development of our Educational Work Outlined Therein." The address has since been printed in pamphlet form. The audience was the largest there has ever been at an Educational Conference at Congress, and an excellent discussion took place. At the Congress this year, the sketch of the future educational work of the Union will be continued.

The Educational Session at the Swansea Congress was held as usual on Tuesday evening, when the Rev. W. Temple, M.A., President of the Workers' Educational Association gave an address on "Education and the Future." There was a huge audience, who listened with great satisfaction to the excellent address given by Mr. Temple. There has seldom been a more successful educational session at Congress.

This year, arrangements have been made for the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.A., M.P., President of the Board of Education, to speak at the Educational Session.

EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

At the Swansea Congress a resolution submitted by the Central Education Committee on Educational Reconstruction was passed by the delegates, and following up the action of Congress, conferences were held in most of the sections upon the subject of Educational Reconstruction. The conferences were largely attended, and considerable interest in the subject was evoked. The introduction of a new Education Bill is being watched with interest, not only because it is a contribution to general educational reform, but because the adoption of compulsory attendance at continuation schools will affect our scheme of technical education among junior employees.

Mr. Wilson Clayton, a member of the Central Education Committee, has been acting as a member of a government committee on educational reconstruction; and Miss E. M. Bradley, M.A., a member of the staff of the educational department, has been acting as a member of a special sub-committee on certain aspects of women's education.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT AND TRADE INFORMATION BUREAU.

The work of this department is being developed, but progress is being hindered by shortage of staff. This difficulty, however, cannot be properly overcome until the end of the war. In the meantime, the future work of the department is being planned. In future, this work will be under the supervision of the Publications Committee, which will be renamed with a more comprehensive title to indicate its wider work.

LANTERN SLIDES AND LIBRARY.

The development of the lantern-slide department and the library has

not been lost from sight, but shortage of staff has prevented the developments which have been planned.

CONNECTION WITH OUTSIDE BODIES.

The committee has retained its connection with the Workers' Educational Association, Ruskin College, and the Working Men's College. The Adviser of Studies and the representative of the Irish Executive on the Central Education Committee have been appointed to represent the Central Education Committee on a committee in charge of a scheme for the Training of Managers in Ireland.

DIVISION INTO SUB-COMMITTEES.

In order to promote the more efficient administration of the Education Department, the committee have decided to recommend to the incoming committee the desirability of dividing the full committee into two sub-committees, each of which would have its special duties allotted to it. It is proposed that each sub-committee should meet at intervals of two months, and the full committee at intervals of three months. By this means it is hoped to distribute the work of the committee in such a manner as will facilitate the more rapid development of the Education Department.

FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

The report of the Survey Committee outlines a considerable amount of work for the Central Education Committee. Many of the recommendations made by the Survey Committee are already being carried out, and others are engaging our attention. It is hoped to undertake considerable developments on the lines of the recommendations at an early date. These developments will involve some increase of both the clerical and teaching staff, but the committee believe that the results will amply repay the additional expense incurred.

W. R. RAE (Chairman).

F. HALL (Adviser of Studies).

C. E. WOOD (Secretary).

21. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE.

This committee has been constituted as under for the Congress year 1917-18):—

United Board Representatives : Messrs. F. Hayward and W. H. Watkins.

Central Education Committee's Representatives : Messrs. S. Fairbrother,

A. Hainsworth, J. Lucas, M.A., W. R. Rae, and the Rev. G. S. Ramsay, B.A.

Chairman : Mr. W. R. Rae.

Adviser of Studies : Professor Hall, M.A., B.Com.

Secretary : Mr. C. E. Wood.

The committee has met on seven occasions during the year.

GENERAL REVIEW.

The work of the committee still continues to grow in volume and importance and the activities during the past year give indication that progress must be even more rapid after the war. The demand for books and pamphlets continues to grow, despite the higher prices which have had to be charged owing to the increased cost of printing and paper. The sales during the past year (1917) have been £2,379, as against £2,500 in 1916. The principal sales have been as follows:—

Model Rules.....	156, 600 copies.
Industrial Co-operation	526 „
Co-operative Book-keeping	952 „
Managers' and Apprentices' Text Books	758 „
Secretaries' Text Book	133 „
Auditing Text Book	56 „
Congress Reports	374 „
(About 2,000 are issued gratis to Societies and various Co-operative Organisations, Libraries, &c.)	
Directories.....	43 „
Song Books, "Our Story," "Story Re-told," and "Lives of Great Men and Women"....	£280
"Foundations," "Working-men Co-operators," and "Co-operation for All".....	£34
Pamphlets and Booklets sold.....	£792

The continued growth of the work of the Publication Department has once more emphasised the need for the early establishment of a more definitely organised Literature and Publications Department, and the committee are preparing their recommendations on this matter for early consideration. Improved organisation has become more necessary because of the steady growth of book-selling departments in connection with retail societies. A further development of the work of the committee is foreshadowed by the decision of the United Board to allocate to the Publications Committee the supervision of the Statistical Department and Trade Information Bureau

The committee during the year have met representatives of the Fabian Research Department, with a view to securing a closer working arrangement between the Research Department and the Union's Statistical Department, and the question of affiliation with the Research Department is under consideration.

In their last year's report the Publications Committee intimated their intention of issuing a year book for co-operators. In the interval, the Co-operative Wholesale Society has issued a People's Year Book. The Publications Committee, hearing of the intention of the Wholesale Society, arranged a deputation, through the United Board, to point out that the Publications Committee had announced their intention of publishing such a book prior to any announcement being made by the Wholesale Society. Further, it was pointed out that the publication of such a book was more properly the work of the Union than the Wholesale Society. The Wholesale Society replied that they would like the Union representatives to see the book, and, if necessary

ask for another joint meeting, as they were of the opinion that there would be no clashing with the book which the Publications Committee intended to issue. The Publications Committee, having now seen the People's Year Book, issued by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, are not satisfied with the position that has been created, and they are seeking another interview with the Wholesale Society through the United Board.

In previous years it has been customary for the Congress Reception Committee to prepare and issue a Congress Souvenir book. The Publications Committee were of the opinion that this book, being a Union publication, might with advantage be prepared and issued by the Publications Committee as greater uniformity and other improvements would thereby be secured. The United Board were approached on the matter and agreed that in future years the preparation of the Congress Souvenir be left in the hands of the Publications Committee.

The recommendations of the Co-operative Survey Committee, so far as they relate to the work of the Publications Department, have been considered during the year. Steps are being taken to carry out such of them as can be immediately put into effect, and arrangements are being made for the carrying out of the remaining recommendations at the earliest possible moment. Steps are being taken to secure additional co-operative plays, and advertisements inviting authors to submit manuscript of any they think suitable are being issued. The committee are also considering the revision of the present Song Book for Juniors, and the issuing of a book of recitations suitable for junior co-operators. Other work in connection with the carrying out of the suggestions of the Survey Committee is in hand, and a fuller report on these matters will be presented next year, when the work is in a more advanced stage.

During the year the committee have given much attention to the issuing of literature upon the political activities of the movement. Only a few pamphlets and leaflets have, so far, been published; but the committee are taking the necessary steps to see that an adequate range of suitable literature is prepared and issued.

The following is a list of books and booklets issued during the year:—

NEW BOOKS AND BOOKLETS.

"Report of the 1917 Congress," held at Swansea. 814 pages. (A copy of this book was issued free to all society members of the Union, and orders for a large number of copies have been received in addition. The price of the book has had to be raised to 3s. 6d., on account of increased cost of production, but a cheap edition in paper backs has been put on sale at 2s. 6d., post free.)

"The Story Re-told."

"Through Play to Understanding." (A handbook for teachers of Co-operative Junior Classes.)

"Report of the London Co-operative National Emergency Conference."

BOOKLETS, PAMPHLETS, AND LEAFLETS.

Reprints of "Industrial Co-operation," "Songs for Adult Co-operators," "The Dawn," "Our Story."

- "Educational Programme. Session 1917-18." Programme and Syllabus of Classes.
- "General Co-operative Survey." Report on Co-operative Education, Co-operative Literature, and Co-operative Propaganda.
- "The Extended Programme of Co-operative Education." By F. Hall, M.A.
- "The Co-operators' Educational League."
- "The Inaugural Address, delivered at the Swansea Congress." By E. R. Wood.
- "A Scheme for Co-operative Parliamentary Representation."
- "A Plea for Co-operative Representation in Parliament." By A. Stoddart.
- "Hints to Allotment Holders." By G. G. Young.
- "The Organisation of Week-end and Similar Schools."
- "Co-operation and After-War Problems." By F. Hall, M.A.

BOOKS IN COURSE OF PREPARATION.

The following books are in course of preparation:—

- "Co-operation in the United Kingdom and Abroad."
- "Text Book on Foodstuffs."
- "Hand-book for Committees."
- "Economics of Co-operation."
- "History of the Co-operative Movement." (Primer Series.)
- "Co-operative Production."
- "Co-operative Finance."
- "Co-operation in Scotland."
- "Local Government."

Some of these books we hope will be published in the course of the next few months.

W. R. RAE, Chairman.

F. HALL, Adviser of Studies.

C. E. WOOD, Secretary.

22. THE JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The constitution of the Joint Propaganda Committee for the year has been as follows:—

Representing the Co-operative Union: Messrs. S. Butler, W. Gregory, and T. Way.

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society: Messrs. T. Adams, T. E. Shotton, A. Varley, and G. Woodhouse.

Mr. T. E. Shotton was appointed chairman for the year, and Messrs. T. Brodrick and A. Whitehead as joint secretaries.

The meetings of the committee have been held at irregular intervals, as the existing conditions are not conducive to much active propaganda work, societies having found their work cut out in coping with the present difficulties

owing to the shortage of supplies of many of the chief articles of consumption and the fact that so many of the employees have joined the Forces.

Mr. E. L. Griffiths, who has acted as organiser for the committee for the past 29 years, tendered his resignation, which was accepted with regret, and a resolution was adopted acknowledging the valuable services rendered to the co-operative movement during his long connection as organiser, coupled with a recommendation that he should be retained in his office on partial employment. To this recommendation the Directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the United Board agreed.

It was decided that the time was inopportune for appointing a successor, Mr. Griffiths agreeing to undertake any work requiring attention during the war.

Since last Congress the following places have been visited by Mr. Griffiths, and in almost every instance the canvass has been followed by public meetings:—Aberystwyth, Bridgnorth, Builth Wells, Chirk, Llandovery, Madeley, Oldbury, Wellington, Welshpool, and Whitechurch.

The Shropshire and Mid-Wales District Association has again been active in propaganda work in the district, arrangements being fixed up for a campaign during the spring of 1918, but it has had to be abandoned for the present on account of the existing difficulties; as soon as times are more propitious the work outlined will be carried out.

Special propaganda work has been arranged in the Somersetshire District, one-half of the expenses being paid by this committee.

The Devon District Association approached the committee for a grant of £100 for the year in order to supplement the amount being raised locally, with the view of engaging a full-time organiser. This request was granted, and an organiser duly appointed who has been working very strenuously, as evidenced by the reports of his work, which have been furnished to the committee.

CO-OPERATION IN LONDON.—The societies in the London area have for some time been agitating for special work of a propaganda character to be undertaken in London, and as a result of several conferences of the societies and the Southern Sectional Board, an application was made to the United Board of the Co-operative Union for financial assistance, asking the Union to guarantee to pay the expenses up to £1,000 per annum for a period of five years, the London societies suggesting that the Co-operative Wholesale Society should bear one-half of the cost. The United Board carefully considered the suggestions contained in the scheme, and afterwards recommended several alterations which were adopted. The matter was then remitted to the Joint Propaganda Committee, as the expenses incurred by this committee are borne equally by the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Union.

The committee had the question under consideration, and met representatives from the Southern Sectional Board to discuss details and fix upon the conditions under which the scheme should be worked. Draft rules have been considered and approved, and the scheme has been agreed to by the Central

Board of the Co-operative Union and the Directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, but it is not intended to take full action until the war is over.

T. E. SHOTTON (Chairman)

T. BRODRICK }
A. WHITEHEAD } (Joint Secretaries).

23. JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AND CO-OPERATIVE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee is at present constituted as follows:—

Co-operative Union : Messrs. W. T. Charter, S. Galbraith, M P., W. H. Watkins, and G. Wilson.

Co-operative Wholesale Society : Messrs. T. W. Allen, P. Coley, W. E. Dudley, and W. Lander.

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society : Messrs. W. Gallacher, R. Stewart, T. B. Stirling, and G. Thomson.

Messrs. T. Brodrick and A. Whitehead, Hon. Secretaries.

Mr. H. J. May, Secretary.

The Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Sub-committee is at present constituted as follows:—

Joint Parliamentary Committee : Messrs. T. W. Allen, W. T. Charter, W. E. Dudley, S. Galbraith, M.P., W. Gallacher, R. Stewart, W. H. Watkins, and G. Wilson.

Central Board : Messrs. C. Goodenough and W. Gregory.

Women's Co-operative Guilds : English—Miss Llewelyn Davies.
Scottish—Mrs. R. A. Tulloch.

Mr. H. J. May, Secretary.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee has met eighteen times during the year, and thirty meetings of its various sub-committees have been held.

The Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee has held seven meetings as a sub-committee of the Parliamentary Committee. It has also appointed special sub-committees for detailed work, which have met several times.

A fuller account of the political work is given in a separate section of this report.

GENERAL.

The past year has been the most strenuous and varied period in the history of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Apart altogether from the huge additional task of preparing for the representation of co-operators in Parliament, which was placed upon the committee by the National Emergency Conference, the special work made necessary by the continuance and increasing strain of war conditions has enormously increased.

The staff of the committee has been increased threefold, and is still inadequate to deal with the calls which the movement is making upon it. The discovery of people experienced in the ways of co-operation and otherwise equipped for the work is a matter of some difficulty in view of the great demands of military service upon all societies and sections of the movement.

The fact that the offices of the committee have on two occasions within six months been commandeered by the Government, and the demand each time that smaller accommodation should be taken, has increased the difficulty of "carrying on."

Some idea of the detail work involved at the present time may be obtained from the knowledge that the Ministry of Food alone has set up over fifty committees to deal with food problems.

An immense field of operations has confronted us and we have endeavoured to exert the full force of our movement to cope with the problems as they have arisen, and to put forward, for the consideration of the Government, proposals prompted by our special experience of the needs and organisation of consumers. If we judge by the actual results achieved considerable ground for satisfaction will be found in the work of the year under review.

In the following paragraphs we give a brief review of the principal happenings, leaving many minor matters to the knowledge of the societies of what has been accomplished on their behalf. The need for economy in the use of paper compels us to omit many points which would prove of great interest and usefulness.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1918.

The outstanding Parliamentary feature of the year is the passing of the Representation of the People Bill. After a very chequered Parliamentary career it has been safely placed upon the Statute Book, denuded of some of its most democratic features, but still retaining provisions of the utmost importance to the community.

The chief advantages of the Act, apart from the new register and the redistribution of seats which are the first essentials, are the enfranchisement of women on fairly democratic lines, the modification of plural voting, the enactment that all polls at a general election shall be held on the same day, the adoption of proportional representation for certain universities, and the possibility of its extension to other constituencies, the payment of returning officers' expenses by the Treasury, and the provisions relating to the men now absent from their homes in the defence of their country.

THE POSITION OF WOMEN.

The most important of these provisions from the co-operative point of view is the enfranchisement of women. The co-operative movement has always led the way on this question, inasmuch as women have always held equal rights with men as to membership, shareholding, and government. Our constitution knows no difference of sex.

The new Parliamentary representation campaign on which we have entered will gain immensely from the accession of the mass of organised and trained co-operative women, who will now have the opportunity of recording their votes instead of confining themselves, as heretofore, to the task of persuading others to exercise their citizenship.

During the present crisis we have worked unremittingly to secure the recognition of our consumers' organisation as a national force, and as one of the main means of equitably dealing with problems of food and other economic matters for the whole community. With the inclusion of women in the franchise we shall secure an invaluable ally of the most experienced and practical character in all such matters.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

This vexed question has occupied the attention of the committee throughout the year. At the time of the last Congress the committee was already in negotiation with the Parliamentary Labour Party to secure the adoption of an amendment to the Finance Act of 1917, which would have the effect of relieving the pressure of this tax upon our societies.

The Swansea Congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of our societies from the operation of the tax.

On proceeding to arrange for an amendment in that sense to the Finance Bill, we were strongly advised that an alternative proposal should also be submitted.

The resolution of the Parliamentary Committee to demand a more equitable distribution of the burden of the tax, though defeated at Congress, was therefore put forward as a second line of defence in the House of Commons.

As the result, the amendment to remove co-operative societies from the operation of the tax was rejected, and the latter proposal to compute the "excess" on the increase per £ sterling of our sales was embodied in an amendment introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but hedged about with conditions which largely render it ineffective, if not actually disadvantageous, in many cases.

The Act provides for regulations to be issued by the Board of Inland Revenue. Over six months was occupied by the department in dealing with the rules and forms of return. A circular giving full information on the regulations was issued to our societies in March, after consultation with expert accountants and with the approval of the United Board.

The regulation affecting non-members' trade, or, to use the term of the Act, "commercial transactions with non-members," not only gives an aspect of complication to the accounts, but incidentally would provide the authorities with the information they desire in order to deal with us on the question of income tax.

The whole question of taxation as applied to co-operative societies was raised by our deputation to the Prime Minister in October last. Unfortunately

the Chancellor of the Exchequer was absent, and the Prime Minister was only able to promise consideration of the case presented to him.

The committee, therefore, sought a separate interview with the Chancellor, which took place at the Treasury on 8th January last.

Mr. Bonar Law, in the course of an otherwise sympathetic reply, said :—

“With regard to income tax, both my predecessor and myself have made it quite clear that there will be no change until after the war, when there will be an inquiry into this question. I am glad to hear that you do not fear such an inquiry; the stronger your case, the less fear you can have of a thorough examination.”

On the question of excess profits duty he said :—

“I am not going to be sympathetic. Frankly, I do not agree with the case which you have put. In a war with a general tax of this kind, it is obvious that there must be inequalities. As far as I can speak, I could not consent to go back on what has been done. As regards the tax as it stands to-day, it is open to revision, which can be raised in the House of Commons when the time comes. So far as I can judge, looking from the point of view I have put to you that there is a great war on and that you ought to contribute something, what I ask you to do is not unfair from that point of view. It has been stated that what has been done by the Government as regards the excess profits duty will prejudice the income tax question. This is an exceptional tax, and nothing done with regard to it can be regarded as prejudicing any question after the war.”

(See resolution at end of report.)

FOOD CONTROL.

Shortly after the last Congress the committee sought an interview with Lord Rhondda, to place before him the co-operative position with regard to—

1. General administration.
2. Representation of co-operators on Government committees.
3. Profiteering.

This interview took place early in Lord Rhondda's Ministry, and laid the foundation of subsequent representations and action.

The committee were also faced with the necessity of unifying co-operative action with the Government Departments, as the duplication of effort threatened to destroy the effectiveness of our work.

With this object, they sought a conference with the two wholesale societies. Two meetings were held, at which the position was fully and frankly discussed.

As a result, the organisation of the work of representing co-operative interests was centred in the Parliamentary Committee, which, in order to cope with the increasing needs of the societies, set up two sub-committees, one for wholesale and the other for retail matters. They also arranged for members of each sub-committee to be practically in constant attendance in

London to deal with matters of urgency and to assist in carrying the work through.

The result of this unification of effort was extremely satisfactory. It had been urged by Lord Devonport and received the approval and co-operation of Lord Rhondda. Nevertheless, it was subsequently found necessary to further press the position of the movement on the notice of the Government at our special conference in London, and also at the deputation to the Prime Minister.

As a result of our persistence we have secured some consideration, and the following list of representatives on Government Committees will give an idea of the extent to which co-operation is in evidence at the Ministry :—

LIST OF CO-OPERATIVE REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES.

NOMINATED BY THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.

Mr. T. W. Allen	Official Co-operative Representative at the Ministry of Food (Honorary).
Mr. T. Killon	Member of the Orders Committee (Ministry of Food).

CONSUMERS' COUNCIL.

Co-operative Representatives.	Advisory Committees to which Appointed as <i>ex-officio</i> Members.
Mr. P. Coley	Wheat Commission.
Mr. W. E. Dudley	Oils, Fats, and Margarine Board.
Mr. W. Gallacher	Margarine Board.
Mr. R. Stewart	Meat.
Mr. W. H. Watkins	Fish, Fruit and Vegetables.
Mr. G. Wilson	Provisions, &c.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Mr. J. E. Green	Margarine Clearing House.
„	Oils and Fats (Ministry of Munitions).
Mr. J. Mastin	Dried Fruit
Mr. A. W. Lobb	Butter Control.
Mr. J. S. Oldham	Bacon, Hams, and Lard.
Mr. T. Parkinson	Wheat Commission.
Mr. A. T. Whiley	Dried Milk at Ministry of Food.
Mr. R. Turner	Tea (Retail).
Mr. A. Andrews	} Potato Advisory.
Mr. Hugh Campbell.....	

Co-operative Representatives.	Advisory Committees to which Appointed as <i>ex-officio</i> Members.
Mr. Wm. Swain	Fruit and Vegetable Markets (London).
Mr. M. McCallum	
Mr. P. Coley	Cocoa and Coffee.
Mr. H. J. Youngs	Milk Enquiry.
Mr. Wm Bethell	Cocoa, Coffee and Dried Fruit.
Mr. J. Hobson	Meat (Prices).
Mr. J. E. Johns.....	Tea (Wholesale).
Mr. D. Rowatt	Bacon.
Mr. W. L. Bradshaw	Provisions.
Mr. W. T. Charter	Tea (Retail).
Mr. N. E. Smith	Flour and Bread.
Mr John McDonald	Home-produced Cheese.

Mr. Wm. Lander	Advisory Council (Ministry of Reconstruction).
Mr. W. H. Watkins	Advisory Council (Ministry of Reconstruction).

The formation of the Consumers' Council gave opportunity for useful advisory work of the first importance.

This product of Mr. J. R. Clynes' conception of the work of the Ministry consists primarily of six co-operative representatives, six trade union representatives, and three women, all representing national organisations. In addition to these there are four other typical consumers selected by the Ministry of Food. Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, is the chairman, and Mr. T. W. Allen is the deputy-chairman of the Council.

Of the work generally, it can only be said here that strong representations are being continuously made to the Ministry on all the matters with which it deals. Interviews and deputations innumerable have been arranged, and every effort to secure the adjustment of our societies' difficulties has been made.

There is no doubt that whatever may have been the failures of the Ministry and the troubles of many societies, the co-operative movement has had to be taken into account, and our representations have had a wholesome effect upon the administration.

Food Rationing.—Throughout the year the committee has employed every means at their disposal to secure the equitable distribution of supplies by whatever means the Ministry has adopted for the time being.

Whether the system has been voluntary rationing; registration of customers in given areas; or compulsory general rationing; as in the case of sugar and, now, of meat, we have continually pressed for the consumers' interest to remain paramount, and the machinery of the department to be used to facilitate supplies to the people, instead of to conserve the interests of traders and manufacturers.

The question of compulsory national rationing was first considered by

the Ministry shortly after its establishment, when, in January, 1917, Lord Devonport set up a special committee to prepare a general plan of national rationing. Our secretary represented the co-operative movement on that committee. Its report and plans formed the nucleus of the schemes now in operation, and although those plans contain many details which we desire to see eliminated or revised, it may also be taken for granted that some of the essentials were adopted as the result of the persistent advocacy of our representative and the efforts of this committee. It is also interesting to note that while the elements of the scheme were evolved in January, 1917, it was not until January, 1918, that the Ministry put it into operation.

We have throughout the intervening period pressed upon the Food Controller the necessity of national rationing, which would at one stroke secure the needful economy in the use of any food, the equitable distribution of available supplies, and the removal of the disastrous datum period.

After much correspondence and several deputations to the Ministry, Lord Rhondda was supplied with the particular proposals which the committee deem essential to any scheme. We need not here detail those suggestions, as copies have been sent to the societies.

Lord Rhondda thanked the committee for its proposals, which, indeed, he had asked for, but they are not yet adopted in their entirety.

The Datum Period which we have referred to as disastrous chiefly affects tea at the moment. Its malign influence was first felt in connection with sugar supplies. For over a year we fought against the "1915 basis" of sugar supplies, which was maintained from the establishment of the Sugar Commission in 1916 until 1st January, 1918. It was really disastrous to fair distribution, and also to the quite normal development of our societies. Its chief merits were the comparative ease with which it could be worked by the Department, and the security it gives to the wholesalers and brokers for the continuance of their business. This latter point seems now to have been established as the settled policy of the Ministry.

With the general rationing of sugar the datum period disappeared, together with the bulk of our difficulties so far as equitable distribution of that commodity is concerned.

During the past three months we have had to deal with perhaps the most difficult problem of the year, viz., the meat shortage. The datum period again reared its head to hinder fair distribution; in addition, we had the active resistance of the cattle and meat dealers, whose methods of business lend themselves more readily than those of the ordinary trader to a campaign against authority.

The introduction of general rationing in meat automatically disposes of the datum period, and it may be hoped that the main inequalities will similarly disappear. Tea control, however, furnishes the most persistent example of the continuance of the system, and we say this in spite of its long career with the sugar problem. In that case it at least had the excuse of the inexperience of the Department in general rationing. No such plea can be put forward

now. The object lesson of sugar, and our representations to Lord Rhondda, deprive the Ministry of any justification for the continuance of a datum period for tea. We have received verbal assurances that it will shortly disappear, but when these promises are reduced to writing they are qualified in ways which bear eloquent testimony to the cleverness of the expert advisers of the Ministry, and their trading colleagues, to camouflage democracy that the trading interests may be saved.

The question of tea control is at the moment an urgent one, offering a most flagrant example of the methods of the Ministry and the manipulations of the trade. We hope that by the time Congress meets we may be able to report a more satisfactory settlement of the matter.

The transfer of customers, which, in some cases, has been carried out by the local committees, is another of the devices by which the private trading elements keep a curb upon co-operative enterprise and secure the control of supplies. We have urged upon the Ministry again and again the necessity of adhering to its original impulse, which instructed local Food Control Committees to transfer goods and *not* customers.

Undoubtedly this is the right course and strictly in accord with the Ministry's professed desire to use the existing channels of trade. The practice of many committees has been, however, little else than a flagrant denial of justice to co-operators. Our circular letter to societies on this subject produced a very considerable protest to the Ministry, but, so far, no effective result has followed.

The Exclusive Channels of Supply for certain articles of food is another question which has given the committee some concern. We acquiesced in this course in 1916, when it was simply a temporary measure of emergency to secure supplies of sugar in adjustment of the 1915 basis to meet the inequalities brought about by the sudden transference of large sections of the population to munition areas. But that phase has now passed, and the excuse for a temporary measure no longer exists.

The practice, however, is now in danger of becoming a fixed part of the system of supply, and we have strongly resented the action of the Ministry in continuing it. Under schemes of national rationing it becomes a hardship and an injustice to the movement. A resolution on the subject will be submitted to Congress.

Local Food Control Committees.—It will be remembered that these committees were just beginning to take shape at the time of the last Congress. Before proceeding to Swansea we had an interview with the Food Controller to request from him an assurance that our societies should have representation on any local Food Control bodies that might be set up. We failed then, as we have failed ever since, to secure **any definite** assurance that our claims to representation would be met.

Lord Rhondda has again and again spoken with the fullest appreciation of our movement, and has declared his desire to use the movement for the benefit of the community. He is firmly convinced that his action at the

Ministry has done more to recognise the co-operative movement than any other Minister has ever done. Moreover, he has sent out more than one official intimation to local authorities that co-operative representatives should be included on these committees. He has even declared his readiness to relax the adamant rule of the Department as to the number of members on these committees (twelve) in order to provide for the inclusion of "accredited representatives of the co-operative movement." But what he has never done—and this is the crux of the whole matter—is to say that co-operative representatives *must* be added to the committees as in the case of Labour.

The truth is that Lord Rhondda, in common with most Ministers, still fails to recognise in practice what he, at least, is too well informed to misunderstand as an economic fact, viz., that the co-operative movement is essentially different in its commercial basis and construction to ordinary trade organisations; that it is, in fact, a consumers' organisation based on mutual principles; that profit and profit-making are eliminated from its operations, and that therefore it has an even greater claim than organised labour as expressed in trade unions, &c., to be called into consultation on matters of food control.

It is because the private traders' organisations in some dull, indistinct fashion realise this truth that they so strenuously oppose the application of Lord Rhondda's advice to their own localities, and equally successfully pull the strings to prevent him making the appointment of co-operators obligatory.

We are constantly taking to the Ministry the cases which are brought to our notice, and in some instances we have secured adjustment. The process, however, is very slow and inadequate when it might and ought to be so easy and quick.

(See resolutions at end of report.)

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY CONFERENCE.

From the point at which the whole of the forces of the movement were unified to deal with matters of special war administration, the work of the committee gained a new impetus. The new organisation greatly aided the force and success of the National Emergency Conference held at Westminster on the 17th and 18th October last.

The proposal for a conference was, however, the outcome of the failure of the committee to secure adequate recognition of the movement by the Government, and especially the refusal of the Prime Minister to receive a deputation of co-operators to place before him the resolutions of the Swansea Congress. The conference was decided upon at a joint meeting of the United Board and the Parliamentary Committee held in Manchester on 15th August. The subjects considered by the conference were :—

(a) The position (past and present) with regard to Excess Profits Duty and Income Tax.

(b) The refusal of the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on behalf of co-operators.

(c) The relations of the movement with the Ministry of Food and representation on the various Government Committees.

(d) The operation of the Military Service Acts upon co-operative societies.

(e) The representation of co-operators in Parliament.

It is not necessary here to give any detailed account of the proceedings, which is published in a separate report. It may, however, be noted that the conference was one of the most enthusiastic and businesslike gatherings in the history of the movement. The delegates came with a clear idea of the objects for which they were met, of the serious importance of the whole programme of business, and a determination to secure the end they had in view.

The decision of the conference on every main question submitted to it was practically unanimous, and, though the Press generally gave little space to our proceedings, the influence of the two days' meetings extended both wide and deep.

A remarkable feature was the demonstration organised at the House of Commons. Every society was asked to arrange an interview between the member (or members) of Parliament for its own constituency and the society's delegates to the conference, the interview to take place at the House of Commons on the evening of the first day of the conference at a given hour. When the time arrived the lobbies of the House presented a most unusually animated appearance; co-operators simply swarmed wherever it was allowable for them to go. A great impression was created, members leaving the chamber in order to view the scene in the lobbies. There is no doubt that the mere pressure of so many representative men from all parts of the country who, incidentally, differed in tone and bearing from any other gathering of the kind with which the House is familiar, had a useful effect upon the legislators.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND CO-OPERATORS.

The story of how the Prime Minister evaded our request for an interview for nearly five months, and then only showed himself amenable to our appeals when the conference to condemn his attitude had been publicly announced, was fully told at the National Conference and is embodied in the published report of its proceedings.

Following the conference we sent to him a copy of the resolutions passed by the delegates and offered to wait upon him, if he so desired, to amplify their terms and explain the reasons for their adoption. At the request of the Prime Minister a deputation, consisting of the whole of the committee and the movers of the resolutions at the National Conference, waited upon him on 31st October. The proceedings occupied two hours. Mr. Lloyd George, in reply, assured us of both his and the Government's appreciation of the co-operative movement, and repudiated any idea of treating co-operators with contempt. He promised, chiefly, the consideration of our demands for recognition in connection with the Ministry of Food, referred the questions of taxation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Military Service to Sir Auckland Geddes.

As already indicated above, a considerable extension of co-operative representation in matters of food control has since taken place. Our repre-

sentations on most matters are now received with more consideration, and in many cases have secured redress for our societies and benefit to the community at large.

MILITARY SERVICE.

This matter has received the constant attention of the committee. The resolution of the Swansea Congress with regard to pivot men was promptly forwarded to the Government. This was, however, one of the questions held up to a great extent by the refusal of the Prime Minister to see us. It was taken up more strongly at the National Conference, and, subsequently, deputations waited upon the Ministry of National Service, the result of which was the issue of forms to our societies on which they might make a return of their indispensable men. From these returns the Ministry proposed to consider the best means of securing the needful staff to the societies. A very large number of these forms were returned, with the particulars filled in, and were at once forwarded to the Ministry of National Service.

It was only when we wrote to the Department protesting against the delay in taking action that we were informed of the issue of a circular letter to the National Service representatives in the various "Regions" advising them not to press for the calling up of men who were indispensable to food distribution. That letter has been printed and sent to every society as a guide to them when attending before Local or Appeal Tribunals. That is the tangible result we have obtained from the forms sent in, while, on the other hand, they constitute a useful register of men for the military authorities.

Meanwhile, as the result of further representations, we issued a circular in January asking for names and particulars of general managers and managing secretaries who were under notice to join the Colours, and who had exhausted their tribunal rights. About twenty cases were dealt with directly as a result of our appeal, and in nearly all the "calling-up" notice was suspended.

As we write this report there are many indications that the demand for men for the Army will increase very much in the near future. Such a step may easily lead to the greatest difficulty in maintaining the services of our societies. The Parliamentary Committee is seeking the opportunity of placing the position, as it affects co-operative societies, before the Ministry on an early date.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PREMIUM BONDS.

In November last the Government appointed a select committee to consider the advisability or otherwise of adopting a system of Premium Bonds as a means of raising money for the prosecution of the war. The secretary of this committee was invited to give evidence before the Select Committee at the House of Commons. With the approval of the Parliamentary Committee, Mr. May attended on 13th December, when he opposed strongly the introduction by the State of any scheme of raising war bonds or other funds in which the element of chance was embodied. His evidence is embodied in

the published minutes of the committee, who reported against the introduction of Premium Bonds.

WORKERS' NATIONAL WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

The work of this committee has proceeded steadily during the year and on the lines previously reported. In September last, however, in view of the steps which had been taken within the movement to unify its representations to Government Departments and elsewhere, it was decided to withdraw our representative from this committee, and to recommend the United Board to take a similar course.

The War Emergency Committee on receiving the intimation of our withdrawal at once asked the committee to receive a deputation on the subject. The deputation, consisting of Mr. Sidney Webb and Mr. J. S. Middleton, attended on 13th November, and after a lengthy discussion the committee reaffirmed its previous decision to withdraw from the committee. Subsequently a notice of motion to rescind the original resolution was adopted, and Mr. H. J. May was reappointed the committee's representative.

POLITICAL ACTION.

Under this heading, in its last report, the Parliamentary Committee recommended the Congress to adopt the view that the time had arrived for the co-operative movement to take the necessary steps to secure direct representation in Parliament as the only means of effectively voicing its demands and safeguarding its interests. The Swansea Congress adopted that view by an overwhelming majority, with the addition that it called upon the Central Board to take the necessary steps to put the resolution of Congress into operation. The Congress also agreed that any action taken should be in consultation with the Parliamentary Committee, and, further, that the resolution for political organisation should not be interpreted as giving power to affiliate with any political party, but left the movement free to enter into friendly relations with all or any of the parties.

Subsequently to the Congress a joint meeting of the United Board and the Parliamentary Committee was held, at which the best means of pursuing the political campaign was discussed. A sub-committee was formed for the purpose of preparing a scheme, which was eventually submitted to the National Emergency Conference and adopted with only slight amendments. The effective clause in the scheme, so far as this committee is concerned, is the following :—"The Central Parliamentary Representation Committee shall be for the time being a sub-committee of the Joint Parliamentary Committee."

The Parliamentary Committee has endeavoured to shoulder the responsibility thus placed upon it by the Emergency Conference. It must, however, be recognised that the machinery adopted in October last was admittedly of an emergency character, and has had to be fitted into our existing machinery. Some overlapping was inevitable, and it will be necessary for the Congress to consider and adopt some modifications in the scheme to ensure smooth and rapid working.

THE CENTRAL PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE.

GENERAL.

This committee, which, as stated above, has met seven times up to the date of writing this report, first met on the 5th December last. Its preliminary work was of a general and preparatory character, and efforts were at once made to indicate to the many societies inquiring the best means of putting into operation the methods of organisation outlined in our scheme.

CONSTITUENCIES AND CANDIDATES.

One of the earliest questions for consideration was that of the selection of suitable constituencies and candidates. The circular of inquiry sent out by the Co-operative Union in September last had resulted in a large number of replies, which, on the whole, may be fairly said to have represented the hopes of the societies rather than the ascertained possibilities of the situation based upon reliable data. The question of areas is altogether upset by the new Representation of the People Act, while the number of registered electors cannot be accurately given for any constituency if only on account of the age of the last register, and the depletion and dislocation of the population owing to the war. The committee have therefore taken the view that the scheme supersedes these returns, and places the right of nomination of candidates in the hands of local councils formed in connection with societies subscribing to the funds and affiliated to the Central Parliamentary Representation Committee.

The question of the available funds also seriously affects the work of selection, as obviously the constituencies contested would have to bear some approximate relation to the funds disposable. Then the average cost of an election is a factor in the case. It is almost impossible to do more than make an estimate of this, seeing that the new Act provides for the payment of returning officers' fees and in other ways modifies the cost of elections.

At the time of writing the committee is anxiously considering their final selections. It would be invidious to insert an incomplete list of either constituencies or candidates' names in this report. An official announcement will appear in the Press in due course, and possibly before this report is issued to societies. It should, however, be borne in mind that the committee has an exceedingly difficult task in hand. They have to face a great unknown in the new constituencies; they are extremely limited in the number of places in which it is possible for them to advise contests; they are prevented by the terms of one "scheme" from entering into other than "friendly relations" with any of the political parties; finally, they are handicapped by the fact that our political organisation has to be built up and that the movement has yet to fully arouse itself to the whole duty of citizenship on co-operative lines. The future, however, is with us if the movement will but organise itself and throw aside its party shibboleths for the ideals of its own democratic constitution.

CO-OPERATORS AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES.

Soon after Swansea Congress the orthodox, or at least the recognised political parties, began to woo the co-operators in various ways; some were subtle, others more courageous advertised abroad their desire to secure the support of co-operators for their party, while loudly denouncing those who they gratuitously suspected of following a similar course.

Only one party, however, approached the committee officially and suggested a conference which was arranged between this committee, the Labour Party Executive, and the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee. A useful discussion took place, and a special joint committee, consisting of three representatives of each central organisation, was appointed to draw up a plan of work.

That committee has met on two occasions, but at the time of writing no definite scheme has been prepared. It has, however, been arranged that when the candidates and constituencies that we desire to contest have been selected efforts will be made to arrange for the elections without overlapping of candidates, and with the mutual support of our respective organisations.

MANIFESTO ON WAR AIMS.

In January last the opportunity was offered to the committee of becoming joint signatories to a manifesto on war aims, issued on behalf of working-class organisations in Great Britain. The manifesto warmly welcomed President Wilson's declaration of the allied war aims, and proceeded to indicate the claims of labour in that regard.

The committee decided to endorse the declaration, and it was issued to the Press signed on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, the National Executive of the Labour Party, and the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee by the respective secretaries.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE AT NOTTINGHAM.

In response to an invitation from the Labour Party Executive Mr. G. Goodenough was appointed to attend the Labour Party Conference at Nottingham in January last, as a fraternal delegate of the co-operative movement.

LEAFLETS AND PUBLICATIONS.

Several leaflets and publications have been prepared for the guidance of local councils and for general distribution. Others are in preparation, and we hope shortly to be able to equip our societies fully for election purposes.

PRESTWICH ELECTION.

Early in the deliberations of the committee as to its general policy the question of its attitude to bye-elections came up for discussion. It was then decided that the committee would consider on its merits any case that might arise. Sooner than was expected the particular case came. The New Year's honours placed the then sitting member for the Prestwich Division in the Peerage. The Manchester district societies were already advanced with

their organisation, and decided that this was a constituency which should be fought for co-operation.

Eventually, and at the eleventh hour, the Central Parliamentary Representation Committee consented to the contest being officially supported, and to Mr. H. J. May being the candidate. This was immediately endorsed by the Parliamentary Committee, and Mr. May was sent to Manchester on the evening of 22nd January to contest the election, which took place on 31st January. With only seven clear days in which to do everything needful in a pioneer fight, the result of the election must be regarded as giving some cause for satisfaction. Our candidate polled 2,832 votes, a larger vote for an independent candidate than has ever been secured in a first contest of any political party.

The election taught us several lessons, and was valuable as a preliminary fight on the novel lines of a co-operative contest. Mr. May stood as a "consumers" candidate without the official support of any political party. An interesting incident of the contest was the stirring message sent by Mr. Albert Thomas (ex-Minister of Munitions of France and member of the French Co-operative Union Executive).

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The idea of "A League of Nations" as a guarantee of future peace has been pressed upon the notice of the committee by a number of societies, and the principle was unanimously approved. It was, therefore, submitted to the United Board as a suitable additional item to our programme of policy. With their concurrence a resolution to that effect will be submitted to Congress.

(See resolution at end of report.)

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The question of proportional representation has received the careful consideration of the committee. Its possible advantages in the kind of political campaign to which co-operators are now committed have led the committee to favour the experiment which Parliament contemplates in applying the system to a hundred constituencies at the next general election.

Mr. John Humphreys, the secretary of the Proportional Representation Society, attended before the committee and gave an interesting account of the work of the Proportional Representation Society, especially emphasising its value to the co-operative plan of political action.

The committee subsequently issued an invitation to co-operative societies in the localities affected to give evidence before the Government Commission in favour of a trial of this system of voting. At the time of preparing this report the Commissions have not completed their work; it is, therefore, impossible to say to what extent the proposal has succeeded.

CONCLUSION.

The general work of the committee has been considerable and varied. The questions of the constitution and rules of local councils to meet all the

varying conditions of our societies, both as to their own constitution and the extensive Parliamentary areas covered in some cases, have occupied much of the time of the committee. The present war conditions are making such demands upon the time and energies of all representative people that the committee find themselves unable to do all they desire. They are confident, however, that with the cordial co-operation of the societies a fruitful and effective future awaits the movement in the fields of national administration and legislation.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Committee,

T. W. ALLEN, Chairman.

H. J. MAY, Secretary.

CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

1. That this Congress reaffirms its previous resolutions as to the injustice of the application of the Excess Profits Duty to the ordinary operations of co-operative societies. It expresses its profound dissatisfaction with the present position of this question and the attitude of the Government towards it, and strongly supports the Parliamentary Committee in the continuance of its efforts to obtain relief for the movement from the unfair burden of this duty.

THE "DATUM PERIOD."

2. That this Congress strongly protests against the continuance of the "datum period" in the schemes of control of food-stuffs adopted by the Ministry of Food; it declares that such a basis of distribution in the present crisis is contrary to the interests of consumers, and calls for its immediate abolition. Further, it demands that the control or rationing of any article of food shall be immediately followed by the registration of customers with retailers and the registration of wholesalers, in order that available supplies may be equitably distributed.

THE EXCLUSION OF CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS.

3. That this Congress enters its emphatic protest against the practice of the Ministry of Food in scheduling certain channels of private trading enterprise as the only means of supply to the exclusion of co-operative organisations, thus compelling our societies to place their orders with private profiteers to the financial detriment of their own federations, and in direct conflict with their established principles as organisations of consumers.

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

4. That this Congress declares its firm adherence to the principle of "A League of Nations" as a guarantee of the world's peace, and hereby adds to its programme of political policy the promotion of such an alliance of all the peoples.

24. REORGANISATION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE.

Recommendations submitted to Congress by the Central Board :—

SCHEME OF ORGANISATION FOR CO-OPERATIVE ACTION.

At the Swansea Congress, the following resolution was passed :—

That, in the opinion of this Congress, the time has now arrived for the co-operative movement to take the necessary steps to secure direct representation in Parliament, and on all local and administrative bodies, as the only way of effectively voicing its demands and safeguarding its interests. It, therefore, calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the foregoing resolution.

In accordance with this resolution, there was appointed at the Emergency Conference in London, in October last, a Central Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee. It was provided that, *for the time being*, this committee should be regarded as a sub-committee of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The scheme has not been found, however, to be entirely satisfactory, and differences between the committee and the United Board have already had to be adjusted. In order, therefore, to place the committee and its work on a more satisfactory basis, the Central Board make the following recommendations to Congress :—

A NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND ITS OBJECTS.

That there be constituted a National Co-operative Representation Committee, whose objects shall be to secure direct co-operative representation in Parliament and on local and other administrative bodies in strict accordance with the decision of the Swansea Congress, and such amendments of this decision as may be made at subsequent Congresses; and to undertake, in furtherance of these objects, such propaganda or other work, either alone or in co-operation with other committees or organisations, as may be deemed desirable.

CONSTITUTION.

The National Co-operative Representation Committee shall be a committee of the Co-operative Union, responsible to the Central Board of the Union, and through it to Congress.

The committee shall consist of :—

Nine members of the Central Board, appointed by the Central Board on a sectional basis (two members from the North-Western Section and one member from each other section).

Nine members representing and elected by societies contributing to the Co-operative Political Fund. These members shall be elected on a sectional basis (two members from the North-Western Section and one member from each other section), and be elected by the contributing societies in the section they represent.

(A person who is elected a member of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union shall not be eligible to be elected as a representative of the societies contributing to this scheme.)

One member representing and appointed by the Central Education Committee or such other committee as may be the committee of the Central Board entrusted with the educational work of the Union.

Two members representing and appointed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

One member representing and appointed by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Two members representing and appointed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Congress.

One member representing and appointed by the Women's Co-operative Guild (England and Wales).

One member representing and appointed by the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild.

One member representing and appointed by the National Co-operative Men's Guild.

(Secretaries of the Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union who also act as secretaries of the sectional councils shall be eligible to attend the meetings of the National Committee, and shall have power to speak, but not to vote.)

The committee shall be elected annually, immediately after Congress. The Central Board shall appoint its representatives at its first meeting following the declaration of the constitution of the Central Board; and the other organisations shall appoint their representatives by the same date; and the first meeting of the committee shall be held within one month following the opening day of Congress and not less often than quarterly thereafter.

It shall be competent for the committee to appoint an executive committee; and if, and when, a permanent executive committee is appointed for the Co-operative Union the constitution of the National Representation Committee shall be so amended that the Executive of the Co-operative Union shall be the executive committee of the National Co-operative Representation Committee.

FUNCTIONS.

The functions of the National Co-operative Representation Committee,

subject to the instructions and veto of the Central Board and Congress, shall be :—

(1) To prepare and issue a statement of policy and a national programme on matters political in harmony with the decisions of the annual Co-operative Congress, to prepare for the approval of Congress such amendments of the statement of policy and programme as may be deemed desirable; and to work in co-operation with the sectional councils, hereinafter provided for, in carrying out the policy and programme as approved by Congress.

(2) To advise and help co-operative societies and co-operative political councils in their political work.

(3) To initiate and undertake, or co-operate with other committees of the Co-operative Union in initiating or undertaking, schemes of propaganda and education for the furtherance of the objects for the attainment of which the committee is established.

(4) To administer the Co-operative Political Fund on lines hereinafter provided under the heading "Finance."

(5) To approve programmes of work and expenditure submitted by the sectional political councils, hereinafter described, and to make to them such grants from the Co-operative Political Fund as may be deemed desirable.

(6) To prepare a list of suitable candidates for Parliamentary elections and to receive nominations from the sectional councils for additions to the list.

(7) To approve or disapprove the Parliamentary candidatures proposed by the sectional councils, and to make such grants in support of the approved candidatures as may be deemed desirable.

(8) To prepare, for issue through the Publications Committee of the Co-operative Union, such literature as may be deemed necessary for the success of the work of the committee.

(9) To secure the adhesion of such societies as have not yet given their support to the scheme for securing direct co-operative representation.

(10) To receive, quarterly, a report from each sectional council of the work done by the council, and take such action thereon as may be deemed necessary.

(11) To submit, with its minutes, a report of its work to each quarterly meeting of the Central Board.

(12) To submit each year to the Central Board for inclusion in the report of the Central Board to Congress a report of the work done by the committee and sectional councils during the Congress year.

(13) To arrange, annually, a combined meeting of the National Co-operative Representation Committee and the Sectional Councils for the purpose of taking counsel together in order to secure such a combination of united action and sectional freedom of action as shall be most conducive to successful working, and to make such recommendations to the Central Board and Congress as may be deemed advisable.

(14) To undertake such other work as may be remitted to it by the Central Board or Congress.

FINANCE.

There shall be created a special Co-operative Representation Fund, on the following basis :—

(1) Retail societies participating in the scheme for securing political representation shall contribute at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per member per year.

(2) Wholesale societies, productive societies, and other special societies shall annually contribute such amounts as may be agreed upon by them and the National Co-operative Representation Committee.

(3) The Co-operative Union, in addition to meeting the expenses outlined below, shall contribute such amounts as may be approved by the Central Board.

(4) Special donations to the fund may be received from individuals and others in sympathy with the objects of the committee.

(From items 1 and 2 an annual income of £8,000 to £10,000 may be expected.)

The Central Board shall be responsible to Congress for the proper use of this fund. The expenditure of the income shall be on the following lines :—

(1) Payment of expenses incurred in connection with propaganda work organised and undertaken by the Central Committee.

(2) Payment of central expenses for literature.

(3) Grants to sectional councils for expenses of between-election work approved by the National Co-operative Representation Committee.

(4) Grants to sectional councils or local political councils towards the expenses of Parliamentary candidatures endorsed by the National Representation Committee.

(5) Payment of expenses of members of the National Representation Committee.

(6) Payment of such other expenses as are incurred with the approval of the committee.

The National Co-operative Representation Committee, at the commencement of each Congress year, shall submit to the Central Board for approval an estimate, grouped under suitable headings, of its prospective expenditure for the current year, and these estimates shall include the grants it proposes to make to the sectional councils and the amounts it proposes to earmark for assisting Parliamentary candidates at bye-elections and general elections.

A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNION.

The Co-operative Union shall organise a special department, which shall work under the National Co-operative Representation Committee of the Central Board. There shall be a person appointed on the Union staff to act as secretary and head of this department and the clerical staff and organisers necessary to secure the success of the department shall also be appointed. The appointments shall be made by the Executive of the

Co-operative Union, in consultation with the National Co-operative Representation Committee. The expenses of the department, covering rent, salaries, administrative expenses not otherwise provided for, and literature not properly chargeable to the funds of the National Representation Committee, the sectional councils, or other committees or bodies, shall be borne by the Co-operative Union. These expenses, which are for the present estimated at £3,000 per annum, shall be borne by the Co-operative Union, and shall be considered the contribution of the Co-operative Union to the Co-operative Representation Fund; but the Central Board may contribute such other additional sums as it may deem necessary or desirable.

SECTIONAL COUNCILS.

For the more efficient administration of the scheme for securing co-operative representation in Parliament and on local governing and administrative bodies, and to secure local interest, and freedom for the exercise of local initiative, there shall be established a co-operative political council in each of the sections of the Co-operative Union, if desired by the Sectional Board.

These councils shall consist of :—

(a) The members of the Sectional Board.

(b) One representative of the Executive Committee of each District Association of the Co-operative Union.

(c) Representatives (equal in number to one-half the number of the sectional board of the section) of the societies in the section subscribing to the Political Fund, and appointed by them.

*(d) Two representatives of the Women's Guild branches in the section and appointed by them.

For the purpose of securing adequate co-ordination of political work with the general work of the Union, the Union's sectional secretary in each section shall be secretary to the Sectional Representation Council.

Where a section is a large one it shall be within the competence of the Sectional Representation Council to divide itself into sub-sectional committees.

The functions of the sectional councils shall be :—

(1) To undertake propaganda work on behalf of the movement's political programme.

(2) To work in conjunction with local co-operative representation councils and local societies in furtherance of co-operative political activity of either local or sectional importance.

(3) To secure the support of such societies in the sections as are not already supporting the scheme for direct co-operative representation.

(4) To stimulate local activity in the organisation of candidatures designed to secure co-operative representation on local bodies and in Parliament.

(5) To investigate the possibilities and desirability of contesting Parliamentary elections in constituencies in their area and to make recom-

* One only where there are fewer than 10 members of the Sectional Board.

mendations to the National Representation Committee regarding suitable constituencies and candidates.

(6) To give such assistance as may be deemed desirable for securing the election of candidates approved by the National Committee.

(7) To assist societies or local political councils in securing co-operative representation on local governing or administrative bodies.

(8) To work in conjunction with other committees and organisations, such as the Union's Educational Department, the Sectional Educational Association, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild, and the National Co-operative Men's Guild, in the arrangement of classes, schools, and meetings for the training of speakers and the dissemination of knowledge upon the movement's political scheme and programme.

The sectional councils shall, at the commencement of each Congress year, submit to the National Representation Committee for approval an outline scheme of work they propose to undertake during the subsequent year, and an estimate of the funds they will require to carry out their scheme, the estimated expenditure being grouped under suitable headings.

Each sectional council shall submit quarterly to the National Representation Committee a report of the work it has done during the preceding quarter, and make such suggestions and recommendations as seem to the council desirable for the success of the scheme for securing direct co-operative political representation; and each year it shall submit an annual report for inclusion in the report of the National Representation Committee to the Central Board.

The Sectional Councils and the National Representation Council shall meet together once each year for the purpose of taking counsel together, and, if necessary, making recommendations to the Central Board and Congress.

The expenses of the Sectional Councils shall be paid on the basis now operative for the Sectional Boards of the Co-operative Union, and paid out of the funds annually allocated to them by the National Representation Committee.

LOCAL COUNCILS.

As soon as it is constituted, the National Co-operative Representation Committee shall consider the constitution and work of local councils, and draft such rules and regulations or amendments to the present scheme of organisation for local councils as seem to it desirable.

RESOLUTION SENT IN BY THE FOLLOWING SOCIETIES :—Blackley, Burslem, Failsworth, Liverpool, Manchester and Salford, Nuneaton, Stockport, and Warrington :—

CO-OPERATIVE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE.

(a) That the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee should be solely responsible to and elected from the Co-operative Union, but a National Advisory Council should also be formed consisting of the members

of the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee, together with the representatives from the two Wholesale Societies and other Co-operative Organisations, of which Congress shall approve, also a representative of each society or group of societies in whose area an approved co-operative Parliamentary candidate is being run, together with a small number of representatives from other societies subscribing to the Parliamentary Fund, and that the Survey Committee consider and present a report to the Central Board within six months for circulation to the sections and district associations in sufficient time for consideration previous to next year's Congress as to the number and method of election of the Committee and Council, and their duties and the organisations which should be represented thereon.

(b) That the constitution of the Co-operative Representation Committee should be amended at the Liverpool Congress in order to provide for an Emergency Committee to take the place of the existing Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee, and to act until the 1919 Congress, such committee to consist of equal representation from each Sectional Board, and the societies in each section that subscribe to the fund, together with one representative from each of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies and from auxiliary bodies connected with the movement.

25. JOINT EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE.

We are pleased to report that the Directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, acting upon the resolution passed at the last Congress, reconsidered their previous decision to withdraw their representatives from this committee. They intimated to the Co-operative Union that they had now agreed to cancel the notice withdrawing their representatives from the Joint Exhibitions Committee, and that they would be prepared to act on the said committee and take part in joint exhibitions when required.

Owing to the continuance of the war no meetings of the committee have been held during the year.

26. JOINT COMMITTEE OF TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The committee during the past year was constituted as follows :—

Representing the Co-operative Union: Messrs. R. R. Chappell, G. Major, R. Rowsell, and A. Whitehead.

Representing the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee: Messrs. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., F. Bramley, H. Gosling, and J. W. Ogden.

The committee has met on three occasions since last Congress, viz., 1st August, 24th August, 1917, and 1st March, 1918.

At the first meeting two cases were submitted for arbitration ; the first case was on behalf of a baker who had been dismissed from the employ of the Gloucester Co-operative Society.

Representatives from the Bakers' Union and Mr. Shewell attended, also three representatives from the Gloucester Co-operative Society. Mr. Shewell stated his case, which was supplemented by Mr. Banfield, on behalf of the Operative Bakers' Union, after which Mr. Burlton (the chairman of the Gloucester Society) stated the case on behalf of the society. Mr. Rowe (the foreman baker) supplementing.

After hearing the evidence from both sides, the matter was carefully considered, and the following resolution adopted :—

From the evidence given before the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators at its meeting held on Wednesday, 1st August, 1917, it appears that A. H. Shewell has not shown that readiness to comply with the foreman's orders which he ought to have done, but under the abnormal circumstances and punishment which would fall upon him the committee is of opinion that the Gloucester Co-operative Society might give Mr. Shewell another opportunity and reinstate him.

The second case referred to an application which had been made to the Alcester Society for war bonus on behalf of the members of the National Union of Clerks, and was submitted to the committee for arbitration. Representatives from the National Union of Clerks and the society were received and gave particulars. Mr. Elvin stated the case on behalf of the National Union of Clerks, and Mr. Morris on behalf of the society. The claim made by the National Union of Clerks was for a 25 per cent war bonus, whereas the society maintained that consideration had been given to the increased cost of living when making substantial advances to the clerks.

After hearing particulars from both sides, the following decision was come to :—

The Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators recognise that the society had taken into account the increased cost of living when revising the wages of the office staff. The committee, therefore, award the following as a war bonus, viz. :— 6s. per week to be paid to the men, Messrs. Devey, Simons, and Hopkins ; and to the female clerks, Misses Hunt and Crick, at the rate of 4s. per week. This to be looked upon as a war bonus, and not as a permanent increase of wages.

A further matter had been referred to the committee by the Alcester Society to which the National Union of Clerks took exception, as this was not in their view a matter for arbitration. It referred to the suspension of some of the clerks through their refusal to undertake certain work when demanded by the secretary, and the society had paid wages during the time of suspension, under protest, and they wished the committee to adjudicate on this. The committee, however, came to the conclusion that in view

of the legal position respecting the payment of wages to the men when under suspension they could not make any award.

At the second meeting held in Manchester correspondence was submitted in reference to the award given in the Gloucester case at the last meeting. The Operative Bakers' Union complained that the Gloucester Co-operative Society had not carried out the award, and had not reinstated Mr. Shewell. The Gloucester Society asked for an interpretation of the award.

After consideration, the secretary was instructed to reply to the society to the effect that the first part of the award means that we found Shewell guilty of a lack of discipline; the second portion meaning that we consider the punishment meted out to him too severe, and therefore that Shewell should be re-engaged.

It was also decided to ask the Gloucester Society and the Bakers' Union to meet together with a view to an amicable settlement.

Letter was read from the Secretary of the National Union of Clerks, asking whether the award given in the Alcester case by the committee at its last meeting was in addition to the war bonus being paid by the society at that time. The committee authorised the secretary to reply stating that it was not an addition, but the total war bonus to be paid to the individuals named.

A suggestion made by a representative at the last Trades Union Congress to the effect that Regulation No. 10 of the rules and regulations governing this committee be deleted was referred by the Congress for consideration by this committee. The regulation is as follows:—

Any society or body of employees acting contrary to these rules shall be deemed to be in the wrong until work has been resumed and the matter in dispute referred to and dealt with by the committee in the manner prescribed by rules.

The matter was discussed, and it was decided to defer further consideration until after the Trades Union Congress.

The third meeting was held at Leicester on 1st March, 1918, to consider demands made upon three societies by the National Union of Clerks for increased war bonus, as follows:—

(a) Nottingham Society, for a war bonus of 10s. per week to clerks 18 years of age and over, and 5s. per week to clerks under 18 years of age. The society had made an offer, but this was not accepted by the Union, and they then asked for the arbitration of this committee. The society was only willing to accept arbitration on condition that the question of payment during sickness was also dealt with. The Union objected to this, contending that the clerks were legally entitled to wages during sickness. Representatives from both sides were heard, but in the absence of agreement on the point mentioned the committee declined to arbitrate.

(b) Rugby Society, for a war bonus of 15s. per week for clerks 18 years of age and over, and 7s. 6d. per week for those under 18 years of age. Representatives were heard from both sides and particulars were given of the wages and bonus paid to each employee. After full consideration it was resolved—

That we award a total war bonus of 12s. per week to all employees 18 years of age and over, and 7s. 6d. per week to employees under 18 years of age, the same to operate as and from the first pay-day in January, 1918.

(c) Alcester Society, that the bonus should be increased to 20s., 5s. of which should be payable as from 12th October, 1917, and the balance from 1st December, 1917. The society contended that this demand was excessive, and drew attention to the award given by this committee on 1st August, 1917. With regard to the present demand they had offered an additional bonus of 7s. and 5s., but this was not accepted. Full particulars of the wages and bonus being paid at the present time were submitted, and after consideration the following award was made :—

That the war bonus to be paid to all the clerical staff of the Alcester Society be increased by 7s. per week, same to be paid as and from the first pay-day in January, 1918.

C. W. BOWERMAN,	} Joint
A. WHITEHEAD,	
	} Secretaries.

27. UNITED ADVISORY COUNCIL OF TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

At the Birmingham Trades Union Congress held in September, 1916, the following resolution was adopted and submitted to the Swansea Co-operative Congress, which accepted the proposal and authorised the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to appoint six representatives to meet a similar number to be appointed by the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee :—

The Trades Union Congress is of opinion that the development of the co-operative movement is essential to an active trade-union movement, and invites the Co-operative Union to appoint a committee of six to meet a similar number appointed by the Trades Union Congress to prepare plans for mutual assistance in developing the productive, distributive, and banking activities of the co-operative movement; always providing that the co-operative movement, as represented by the Co-operative Union Limited, is prepared to recognise the trade-union rates of wages and conditions of employment as laid down by the trade unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress.

The Council has been constituted as follows :—

Representing the Co-operative Union : Messrs. R. Fleming, G. Goodenough, W. Millerchip, W. H. Watkins, D. Williams, G. Wilson, and A. Whitehead, secretary.

Representing the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee : Messrs. C. W. Bowerman, M.P. (secretary), F. Bramley, H. Gosling, J. W. Ogden, G. H. Stuart-Bunning, J. Hill, and W. Thorne, M.P.

At the first meeting an informal and free discussion took place upon the various subjects which could be dealt with under the terms of the resolution, and it was agreed that the representatives of both movements should meet separately prior to the next meeting of the full council, so as to formulate proposals to be submitted.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business the question of Excess Profits Duty, as applied to co-operative societies, was discussed, and a resolution passed to be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Food Controller and sugar supplies was next dealt with, and a resolution adopted which was sent to the Food Controller.

At the second meeting the council considered the proposals formulated by both sides, having for their object the bringing of the trade union and co-operative movements into closer unity, which, after discussion, were in principle unanimously endorsed and a sub-committee was appointed for the purpose of harmonising the two sets of proposals.

The council then proceeded to consider matters of importance to both movements, the first was in connection with the recommendations embodied in the report recently issued by the sub-committee of the Reconstruction Committee, in which it was suggested that a National Committee should be formed to deal with matters affecting the co-operative movement, upon which representatives of the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee and the Co-operative Union should be appointed, the following resolution being unanimously adopted :—

That any joint council constituted under the Government reconstruction proposals for the purpose of dealing with co-operative employment should consist of representatives of the Co-operative Union and unions affiliated to or eligible for recognition by the Trades Union Congress.

The second matter dealt with was the formation of Local Food Control Committees which the Food Controller was about to set up. The joint representatives expressed the opinion that working-class interests should be more adequately represented than was foreshadowed, and it was agreed that communications should be addressed to Lord Rhondda and to Mr. Clynes expressing the hope that instructions might be given to local control officers to place representatives of the co-operative movement upon these committees.

The Council again met and considered the following statement of the

objects which the Advisory Council should endeavour to secure, subject to the endorsement of their respective committees and membership :—

GENERAL STATEMENT OF OBJECTS TO BE FURTHERED AND ATTAINED.

1. That, having regard to the mutual interests of the trades union and co-operative movements, the need for promoting a better understanding, a closer working agreement, the carrying out of a joint programme for educational and practical purposes without in any way interfering with the separate and distinct functions of either constituent body, and the decision of the co-operative movement to recognise the trade union rates of wages and conditions of employment as laid down by the unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress, it is incumbent upon all trade-unionists to become active members of their local co-operative societies. As those employed in the co-operative movement will be guaranteed the trade union rates of wages and conditions of employment, it is equally incumbent upon co-operative societies to encourage all their employees to become members of their respective trade organisations.

2. The establishment of friendly and cordial relationships between all branches of the co-operative movement and their employees, so that all differences as to wages and conditions of service may be mutually and satisfactorily adjusted before any cessation of labour takes place. (The foregoing provisions are not intended to interfere in any way with the work of the existing joint committee.)

3. The consideration of how far it is practically possible for the surplus capital of the respective movements to be utilised for the promotion and development of co-operative enterprise, and making of recommendations thereon.

4. The examination of the facilities for banking and insurance now offered by the co-operative movement, to see where these can be extended and improved or made more adaptable to working-class requirements, especially with regard to the provision of facilities through the various co-operative stores in the country, so that cheques presented by trade unions can be honoured in such manner as will best meet the convenience of the trade unions and the co-operative societies.

5. The consideration of how far it is desirable and possible to ensure the unrestricted distribution of food supplies, or the payment of benefit during important trade disputes by issuing through the various branches of the co-operative movement food coupons or loans from the Co-operative Wholesale Society's bank on the security of trade union assets.

6. That not only is it imperative that trade-unionists should themselves become members of co-operative societies, but that both husband and wife should become members, and take a joint interest in the progress and development of the society, since both are equally concerned in its well-being, and we recommend that where the present rules prohibit husband and wife from both being members, societies should amend their rules so

as to admit of open membership. We also recommend the abolition of the entrance fee.

7. The preparation and distribution of suitable literature with the view of influencing the officials and members of the trade union movement to take a more decided and active interest in co-operation, and for influencing the officials and members of the co-operative movement to become members of their respective trade organisations, and that for the proper carrying out of this object, each should notify the other and ask for support when any meetings are being convened by either body for the purpose of conducting propaganda work.

These objects have been submitted to and approved by the delegates attending the Trades Union Congress, and endorsed by the National Emergency Conference convened by the Co-operative Union. At the Trades Union Congress further information was desired upon the clause referring to co-operative banking, therefore a joint meeting with the Finance Committee of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the bank manager was arranged and the points submitted. A most useful discussion took place which convinced the representatives from the trade union side that the Co-operative Wholesale Society could successfully undertake the banking to the mutual advantage of all parties concerned.

Since the joint meeting the Manager of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank has put in writing replies to the questions raised, which letter is being used as a means of proving to the respective trade unions the advantages which may be gained by their banking in the co-operative movement.

It has been decided to hold a series of conferences jointly arranged for the purpose of presenting and discussing the scheme, at which a paper, now in course of preparation, will be submitted for discussion, also leaflets for distribution will be prepared.

C. W. BOWERMAN,	} Joint
A. WHITEHEAD,	
	} Secretaries.

28. CO-OPERATIVE DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The constitution of this committee has been as follows :—

Representing the Co-operative Union Ltd.: Messrs. J. Morrell, J. Murdoch, R. Rowsell, and J. G. Shacklock.

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society: Messrs. A. W. Golightly, G. Hayhurst, W. Hemingway, and T. E. Shotton.

Representing the Co-operative Productive Federation: Mr. R. Halstead.

Since last Congress this committee has not been called together as no business of sufficient importance has transpired to warrant a meeting.

A case has, however, been submitted to each member for consideration and vote as to whether a sum should be granted from the Defence Fund to an

individual who stated that he had been requested by the manager of the firm by whom he was employed to send in his resignation, or resign his position on the committee of the local co-operative society. Instead of refusing to do as suggested he resigned, otherwise his case might have been more favourably considered. He had taken over a small poultry farm which would not be remunerative for some time, hence his request for consideration.

The decision of the members of the committee was against a grant being made.

THE CENTRAL BOARD.

29. HONORARY MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen are submitted for appointment as honorary members of the Central Board for the coming Congress year. They have been recommended by their Sectional Boards and approved by the United Board.

Section.	Members.
Irish	Mr. R. Fleming.
Midland	Messrs. E. L. Griffiths, D. McInnes, S. Redfern, W. W. Smith, and G. Woodhouse.
Northern	Messrs. H. R. Bailey, W. Crooks, and J. Murdoch.
North-Western	Messrs. C. J. Beckett and H. Stuttard.
Scottish	Messrs. D. H. Gerrard, J. Lochhead and A. Meldrum.
Southern	Messrs. A. H. D. Acland, A. W. Golightly, E. O. Greening, and H. J. May.
South-Western	Messrs. A. Bullock and H. Westbury.
Western	Mr. E. R. Wood.

30. DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

Since last Congress we have to record the death of two members of the Board, viz., Mr. C. Vaughan (of Plymouth) and Mr. J. M. Wilkie (Scottish Section). At the time of death Mr. Vaughan was an honorary member of the Board, being elected as such in 1914. He had previously served as an ordinary member of the South-Western Board for eleven years, being elected in 1898 to 1906 and from 1911 to 1914.

Mr. Vaughan was an energetic worker, and during his lengthy connection with the co-operative movement rendered valuable service to the cause in the West of England, and we desire to place on record our appreciation of his services.

Mr. J. M. Wilkie, member of the Scottish Sectional Board, met with an

untimely death on 16th March, 1918. During the afternoon of that day he had attended a meeting in connection with the Scottish Section, and in the evening addressed a meeting of women workers in Edinburgh, leaving that city for his home late in the evening. During the early hours of Sunday morning his body was found on the railway not far from his home.

Mr. Wilkie has been a member of the Board for eight years, and has taken a most active part in the work of the movement, his services as a speaker being in very great request.

We desire to express our sincere sympathy and condolence with his widow and family, and to record our great appreciation of the services rendered by him to the cause of co-operation.

THE SECTIONS.

31. REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS.

At the end of this report will be found details of the work done by the Sections and District Associations, but below we give some of the principal matters dealt with in these reports, for the purpose of bringing them before your notice.

(1) IRELAND.

(a) Propaganda.—Shortly after the commencement of the Congress year Mr. Fleming, who was then the organiser, was elected to the directorate of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and accordingly tendered his resignation. The United Board appointed Mr. W. M. Knox to the position, and he has been working most energetically since his appointment.

Mr. Fleming, being a public auditor, undertook the audit of many societies' accounts. Mr. Knox has been able to undertake this work up to a certain point, then Mr. Fleming has completed the work and signed the annual returns.

(b) New Societies.—Three new societies have been registered since last Congress, and in two other instances societies have not succeeded in getting a start made in business. The share capital collected has been retained in the bank in view of the possibility of more favourable circumstances arising. In Londonderry there has been appointed a provisional committee, which has made fair progress in collecting capital.

(c) Conferences.—The annual joint conference of the Northern and Southern districts was held in Dublin, when Mr. A. Mann introduced the Survey Committee's report to last Congress.

The Northern district conference was held at Lisburn, when a paper was read on "The Situation in Ireland with respect to Food Production and the Relationship of the Consumer thereto."

The Southern district conference met at Dublin and discussed Mr. May's paper on "Income Tax."

A special conference of managers, secretaries, and committee-men was held in Belfast to consider a paper on "Salesmanship."

(2) MIDLAND.

(a) Conferences.—Two conferences have been held at three different centres on the same days, at which the "Report of the Survey Committee as Presented to Last Congress" and "Farming by Distributive Co-operative Societies" were considered. A joint conference was held in connection with the Educational Committees' Association and the Central Education Committee, in connection with the week-end school held at Woodbrooke Settlement, Bournville, at which "Educational Reconstruction" was considered.

(b) Propaganda.—The Sectional Board has again done some good work during the summer months by open-air meetings, and during the winter has held inside meetings.

(c) Hours and Wages Boards.—Hours and Wages Boards have been set up in each district, with beneficial results.

(d) Convalescent Fund.—The Convalescent Fund continues to make progress, showing marked increases as compared with the previous year.

(e) Holyoake Centenary.—Special mention is made of the Holyoake Centenary meetings held at Birmingham in the early part of 1917.

(f) General.—The following matters have received the attention of the Board during the year:—"Direct Representation," "Income Tax and Excess Profits Duty," "Educational Work."

(3) NORTHERN.

(a) Hours and Wages Board.—The Northern Sectional Board has been constituted as the Hours and Wages Board, with power to call in a representative from the Executive of the District Association of the district directly affected by any dispute, and, for consultative purposes, representatives from the societies immediately affected.

(b) Conferences.—A special conference was held at Newcastle, to consider proposals put forward by the Managers and Secretaries' Association for payment of salaries based upon sales.

Conferences have also been held to consider the question of setting up in each district a "Wages Advisory Committee" and the question of "Payment of War Bonus to Substituted Female Labour."

(c) Federation.—The policy of federation, especially of comparatively small societies in suitable geographical areas, has for some time been the policy of the Sectional Board. It is reported that societies are beginning to recognise this, and a movement is on foot in one district having for its object the federation of six or seven societies.

(d) General.—Several matters of interest are dealt with in the report, viz., "Windy Nook Tragedy Fund," "Congress of 1919," "Conciliation Board."

(e) Convalescent Home.—The balance sheet of the Gilsland Convalescent Home shows a net deficiency of £1,187 0s. 11d., and the directors are asking shareholders to agree to a temporary revision of charges.

(f) Obituary.—The report closes with an obituary notice of an old co-operator, one of the pioneers of the movement in the North.

(4) NORTH-WESTERN.

(a) Conferences.—Conferences have been held as follows:—(1) At Bradford, when "The National Policy and Programme" was introduced. (2) Two joint conferences under the auspices of the Central Education Committee, Educational Committees' Association, and the Sectional Board, at Bolton and Huddersfield, the subject for discussion being Mr. Fisher's "Education Bill." (3) A joint conference convened by the Executive of the Manchester District Conference Association and the Committee of the Defence Association was held in Manchester, when addresses were given by Messrs. R. Smillie and H. J. May. The annual conference for consideration of the sectional and district reports was held at Leeds.

(b) Sectional Demonstration.—Although no sectional demonstration and choir contest has been held, the Board reports that the membership of the Choral Association has been well maintained.

(c) Amalgamation and Federation.—One amalgamation has been effected, and in two other instances efforts have been made to bring about amalgamation, but unsuccessfully. The attempt to form a federation of co-operative societies in Manchester for the purpose of establishing a co-operative emporium on lines similar to the large company shops, owing to the exigencies of the war, has been abandoned for the present.

(d) Parliamentary Representation.—Energetic measures have been taken to keep this subject to the fore, and the matter is receiving attention.

(e) Jubilee Congress.—Special mention is made of the Jubilee Congress and the reasons for its transference from Manchester to Liverpool.

(f) General.—The report deals with other subjects considered by the Board:—"Convalescent Homes," "Organisation of Allotment Holders," "Hours and Wages Boards," and reports the formation of two societies in the North Wales district.

(5) SCOTTISH.

(a) Eighteenth Annual Scottish Conference.—This conference was held at Falkirk, when there was a record attendance. The annual reports of the Section and District Associations were submitted and passed, and resolutions on ten subjects were adopted.

(b) Joint Meeting.—The annual joint meeting of the Sectional Board and representatives from the District Conference Associations was held in Glasgow, when the question of setting up a Defence Committee was considered.

(c) Special Conferences.—Two special conferences have been held, at which the following subjects were considered:—"Co-operative Policy and Programme," and "The Necessity for a Compulsory System of Rationing."

(d) Propaganda.—The National Propaganda Committee has been very active during the year, making its object not so much to create new members as to educate present members on the principles and ideals of industrial co-operation. Over fifty public meetings have been held, covering every part of Scotland. The meetings have, with few exceptions, been very satisfactory.

(e) Convalescent Homes.—The report states that the effect of the war has had a serious effect on the Convalescent Homes, which shows a heavy deficiency in the maintenance account. The efforts to raise a fund for the extension of the Mothers and Children's Home has been successful.

(f) General.—Among other matters contained in the report the following are mentioned :—"Political Matters," "Joint Advisory Committee," "War Emergency Committee," "Representation on Live Stock Commissions," "Organisation of Allotment Holders," "Legal Matters," "Annual Fraternal Gathering."

(6) SOUTHERN.

(a) Progress.—The report opens with particulars of the progress, compiled from information supplied direct by the societies in the section. This is most satisfactory

(b) Conferences.—Five conferences have been held during the year, four in London and one at Norwich, the subjects considered being :—"The Sectional Annual Report," "Annual Co-operative Policy and Programme," "Direct Representation," and "Food Problems."

(c).—Propaganda.—The problems of organisation and propaganda in the London area have received much attention, a scheme having been drafted and an application made to the United Board for financial assistance.

(d) Hours and Wages Boards.—Hours and Wages Boards have been set up in each district.

(e) Boundary Agreements.—Boundaries have been agreed upon between several societies in the section, and efforts are being made to arrange in other districts where overlapping exists.

(f) New Societies.—It is reported that three new societies have been formed during the year, and in another district the promoters of a new society were advised to join an existing society. This has been done and a branch opened in the district; this appears to be progressing favourably.

(g) General.—Special reports are given of the Convalescent Fund and the Choral Association, and the following subjects are included in the sectional report :—"Organisation of Allotment Holders," "Income Tax Menace," "District Organisation," "Education Committee," "Co-operative Schools," "Literature and Lantern Slides."

(7) SOUTH-WESTERN.

(a) Amalgamation.—The Sectional Board has again been working with a view to bringing about amalgamation of societies in various districts, and reports success in one district.

(b) Propaganda.—A permanent organiser has been working during the

past year in the Devon district with marked success. In other districts special propaganda work has been undertaken.

(c) Hours and Wages Board.—The Sectional Board constituted itself as the Hours and Wages Board, and this action has been confirmed by a majority of the societies in the section.

(d) Sectional Conferences.—Two sectional conferences have been held at Plymouth and Exeter, when the subjects discussed were “Educational Reconstruction” and “National Rationing of Food.”

(e) Convalescent Fund.—A special report of this fund is given, from which it will be noted progress has been made.

(8) WESTERN.

(a) Progress.—The report states that the general trend of societies in the section has been one of progress and increase, and would have been greater but for the scarcity of supplies.

(b) Conferences.—Two conferences have been held, the first at Gloucester, when Professor F. Hall gave an address on the “Extended Programme of Co-operative Education.” The second was held at Cardiff, when the subject considered was “Food Rationing.”

(c) Hours and Wages Board.—The Sectional Hours and Wages Board has had a strenuous and anxious time, considering a demand for very large increases and amended conditions of labour for the whole of South Wales and Monmouthshire.

(d) General.—The four District Associations continue to regularly carry on useful work. Early in the year a joint meeting of the Board and district secretaries was held in order to discuss the work for the current year.

32. TRANSFER OF SOCIETY.

The Llanidloes Co-operative Society has made application to be transferred from the Western to the Midland Section. Both Sections concerned are agreeable, but the approval of Congress is required before the transfer can be made.

FINANCES OF THE UNION.

33. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

The usual summary is given below, showing the principal items of expenditure of the funds of the Co-operative Union during the year 1917 as compared with 1916.

Details of the expenditure appear in the balance-sheet at the end of the report.

RECEIPTS.

	1916.			1917.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions and Donations	17432	10	1	18959	17	11
Sale of Publications	2527	7	11	2379	8	0
Advertising	46	10	0	32	1	6
Dividend and Interest received	64	17	8	77	0	0
" " credited	407	17	2	427	10	10
Balance of Bank Interest, Dividend, and Commission	407	14	5	462	3	7
Rent of Rooms—Holyoake House	105	2	10	86	14	8
	<u>£20992 0 1</u>			<u>£22424 16 6</u>		

EXPENDITURE.

	1916.			1917.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Congress	1087	19	5	1500	1	7
United Board and Office Committee	385	12	8	605	16	10
Central Board Meeting	347	13	4	194	3	4
Joint Parliamentary Committee	349	10	1	896	15	5
Education Committee	2101	17	8	2487	19	0
Joint Propaganda Committee	223	7	10	154	0	10
Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators	89	14	10	33	3	1
General Survey Committee	421	2	3	439	9	1
Co-operative Employment Sub-committee	19	9	2			
National Conciliation Board	129	4	2	91	19	2
Conferences and Meetings attended on behalf of United Board	224	5	8	212	0	9
Subscriptions and Grants	206	0	0	219	4	0
Legal Advice	150	6	1	238	14	0
General Printing	1126	12	2	1275	19	4
Printing—Publications, &c.	2217	7	0	2315	7	9
Central Office Expenses	8603	0	11	3849	3	3
Publications Committee	102	16	2	65	4	8
Defence Committee	5	15	8			
Emergency Conference	—			522	0	1
Central Parliamentary Representation Committee	—			81	0	0
Joint Advisory Council (Trades Union Congress)	—			82	17	2
Holyoake Centenary	—			217	3	8
	<u>£12741 15 1</u>			<u>£15430 12 0</u>		

Sectional Expenses:—

	1916.			1917.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
*Ireland	259	17	5	364	7	3
Midland	633	1	11	728	7	8
Northern	631	2	8	665	8	11
North-Western	1315	12	10	1428	8	9
*Scottish	1404	3	6	1559	1	6
Southern	1186	19	2	1257	6	7
South-Western	302	14	10	452	15	10
Western	302	5	9	337	7	6
	<u>6035 18 1</u>			<u>6793 4 0</u>		
	<u>18777 13 2</u>			<u>22223 16 0</u>		
Balance of Income over Expenditure	2214 6 11			201 0 6		
	<u>£20992 0 1</u>			<u>£22424 16 6</u>		

* Under the new system of accounts the Irish Section has been debited with £50 grant to Women's Guild and the balance of Propagandist Agent's expenses, after deducting audit fees received. The Scottish Section has been debited with the grant to Women's Guild (£175), legal advice amounting to £63. 4s. 9d., and grants to Propaganda Fund £200.

34. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SOCIETIES.

We are pleased to report an increase of £1527. 7s. 10d. in the income of the Union from contributions as compared with the previous year; this increase is considered very satisfactory.

The following is a summary of the contributions received from the societies in the various sections, and also the amounts received from publications, advertisements, dividends, and interest :—

	1915.				1916.				1917.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions from Sections:—											
Ireland	111	15	8	..	116	18	5	..	143	19	3
Midland	2,092	8	2	..	2,226	14	0	..	2,518	5	6
Northern	1,783	1	1	..	1,967	15	4	..	2,111	0	9
North-Western	6,707	6	0	..	7,048	15	6	..	7,540	9	10
Scottish	2,336	7	0	..	2,490	0	10	..	2,672	4	11
Southern	2,138	19	9	..	2,287	10	2	..	2,558	10	3
South-Western	568	9	5	..	709	13	9	..	714	0	4
Western	535	4	5	..	585	2	1	..	701	7	1
	<hr/>				<hr/>				<hr/>		
	16,273	11	6		17,432	10	1		18,959	17	11
Other Receipts—											
Publications, Adver-											
tising, Dividends,											
Interest, &c.	3,175	18	6		3,559	10	0		3,464	18	7
	<hr/>				<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£19,449	10	0		£20,992	0	1		£22,424	16	6

35. INVESTED FUNDS.

The Union has invested its surplus funds in the undermentioned societies :—

	£	s.	d.
English Co-operative Wholesale Society—Shares..	1,290	0	0
" " " " " Loans ..	14,021	16	8*
Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society—Shares..	880	11	6
Co-operative Printing Society—Shares	50	0	0
Co-operative Newspaper Society—Shares	50	0	0
" " " " " Loans	6	8	9
Kinning Park Society—Shares and Loans	26	7	8
Manchester and Salford Society—Shares	5	15	8
	<hr/>		
	£16,331	0	3

* Includes £7254. 1s. 5d. Belgian Distress; French and Belgian Societies; and Anglo-Russian Hospital Funds in the Hands of the Union.

36. CENTRAL PREMISES.

Holyoake House has again been very fully occupied. Many of the local trade unions take advantage of the building for holding their meetings, and up to the present we have encouraged this with the idea of keeping in touch with the sister movement. The work of the Union has however grown so rapidly that we now require nearly all the accommodation to carry it on successfully and efficiently. We fear it will be found necessary before long to curtail the letting of rooms to some of the unions. The educational department of the Union has made good use of the class rooms and lecture hall, and the associations closely allied with the Union have also used the rooms frequently.

We hinted in our report last year that when normal conditions were resumed, and the members of the staff now on active service get back, that to carry out the developments foreshadowed it may be necessary to enlarge the present premises, and when the time arrives we shall have again to appeal to the generosity of the societies for funds to enable this to be done

GENERAL MATTERS.

37. GENERAL CO-OPERATIVE SURVEY.

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE.

Representing the Co-operative Union.—Messrs. G. Bisset, W. H. Bryant, W. T. Charter, R. Fleming, W. Gregory, W. Millerchip, J. Pollitt, W. R. Rae, and W. H. Watkins.

Representing the Co-operative Productive Federation.—Messrs. R. Halstead and A. Mann.

Representing the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild.—Mrs. M. Hunter.

Chairman.—Mr. W. R. Rae.

Secretaries.—Mr. A. Whitehead, General Secretary; Messrs. T. Horrocks, C. E. Wood, and Professor F. Hall, M.A., Assistant Secretaries.

SUB-COMMITTEES.

Constitution and Administration.—Messrs. W. Gregory (chairman), W. T. Charter, J. Pollitt, and W. H. Watkins. Secretary: Mr. T. Horrocks.

Education.—Messrs. W. R. Rae (chairman) and A. Mann. Secretaries: Mr. C. E. Wood and Professor F. Hall, M.A.

Production and Distribution (or Trade Sub-committees).—Mr. W. Millerchip (chairman), Mrs. Hunter, Messrs. G. Bisset, W. H. Bryant, R. Fleming, and R. Halstead. Secretaries: Professor F. Hall, M.A., and Mr. C. E. Wood.

THIRD INTERIM REPORT.

Since the presentation of the Second Interim Report the committee have continued their work, which has been much hampered by the unusually heavy pressure of other duties upon the committee and secretaries due to extra war-time work and the depletion of the Union staff. Despite these difficulties, the committee, until quite recently, anticipated being able to present a complete report to the 1918 Congress, but unexpected difficulties arose in regard to interviews with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the English Agricultural Organisation Society. The committee considered the desirability of completing their report without awaiting the views of these organisations; but, having regard to the vital importance to future co-operative development of an assuagement of the competition and unco-operative feeling between associations of consumers and associations of producers, particularly in regard to agricultural industry, they have deemed it better to defer the presentation of their recommendations on certain matters until they have had a fuller opportunity of consulting those who represent the various schools of co-operative thought and practice. As, in their opinion, one of the greatest of outstanding co-operative problems is the reconciliation of producers' and consumers' interests in co-operative organisation, they have thought it wiser—rather than present a somewhat incomplete report—to delay for a few months the presentation of their full report and recommendations on matters connected therewith in order that they and Congress may have the opportunity of dealing in an adequate manner with this great problem. Although our inquiries are in an advanced stage, we therefore do not present a full report on Wholesale Co-operation, Co-operative Production, Agricultural Co-operation, International Co-operation, Labour, and Welfare Work, pending the consultations referred to, but we seek the permission of Congress to issue the report to the members of the Union as soon as it is completed, so that the movement may consider it fully before the Congress of 1919. We, therefore, present to Congress this year the following reports:—

1. The Report and Recommendations of the Constitution Sub-committee dealing with—

- (a) The Constitution of the Co-operative Union;
- (b) The Administration of the Co-operative Union;
- (c) The Constitution of Distributive and Productive Societies;
- (d) The Constitution of Education Committees of Retail Distributive Societies;
- (e) The Constitution of Sectional Educational Associations.
- (f) Overlapping and Amalgamation;
- (g) Federations within the Union—
 - (1) The Co-operative Wholesale Societies.
 - (2) The Co-operative Productive Federation.
- (h) The International Co-operative Alliance.

2. The Report and Recommendations of the Production and Distribution Sub-committee (latterly called the Trade Sub-committee) dealing with—

(a) Retail distributive co-operation, and covering also related matters, such as Co-operation and the Poor, Co-operative Emporiums, Co-operative Hostels, and Co-operative Book Shops.

3. The Report and Recommendations of the Education Sub-committee in regard to the Co-operative Press, this matter having been referred back for reconsideration by the Swansea Congress.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION.

It will be remembered that in the Interim Report of this committee, which was submitted to the Lancaster Congress, a statement was included which gave in detail the present constitution of the Co-operative Union, and certain suggestions were made for alteration, which, under present-day circumstances, were deemed to be necessary. The committee have conducted their inquiry so as to cover, in addition to the Union, all organisations of a co-operative character recognised by the movement, and have made recommendations with the object of linking up these organisations with the Union in a closer connection than has hitherto prevailed. We propose first to deal with the constitution and administration of the Co-operative Union, and to do this effectively it is necessary to traverse some of the ground already covered in the Interim Report. The statements dealing with the present constitution and administration of the Union are therefore reprinted and, in the recommendations which follow, the conclusions mentioned in the Interim Report are again brought forward with such alterations as have been found necessary, together with the additional recommendations resulting from our inquiries since the previous report. If this report meets with the approval of Congress, we recommend that the Central Board be instructed to draft a complete amendment of the rules of the Union, based on the recommendations made, and submit the amended rules to the Congress of 1919.

A.—THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED.

PRESENT CONSTITUTION.

The rules of the Union provide that it shall consist of all industrial and provident societies, joint stock companies, and other bodies corporate, which may be admitted by the United Board. No individual can be admitted as a member.

The Union at present consists of

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES,

established to carry out co-operative principles and practice. For the purposes of co-operative organisation the United Kingdom is divided into geographical areas known as

SECTIONS,

of which there are eight, viz. :—Irish, Midland, Northern, North-Western, Scottish, Southern, South-Western, and Western.

DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE ASSOCIATIONS.

The sections cover very wide areas, and it has been found necessary to provide local machinery for local work. Each section is therefore divided into districts which vary in size and character. For each district a committee is elected by the societies in that area to carry on local propaganda work, and arrange conferences on various subjects of local interest. The expenses of these associations are met by grants from the Board in whose section they are situated, supplemented in some instances by subscriptions from societies in the area, but the method of financing the associations varies in the different sections.

SECTIONAL BOARDS.

The societies included in the area of each district or conference association are, in turn, represented on the Sectional Board, but the mode of election varies in the different sections, thus—

Irish, Midland, Scottish, Southern, South-Western, Western Sections.—The members of these Boards are elected by the whole of the societies included in the respective sections.

Northern Section.—The Northern Section is divided into seven electoral districts, each comprising one of the seven conference associations in the section. The societies in each electoral district elect one representative to the Sectional Board.

North-Western Section.—The North-Western Section is divided into sixteen electoral districts, comprising the sixteen conference associations in the section. The societies in each electoral district elect one representative to the Sectional Board. There are in addition four sectional representatives who are elected by the votes of all the societies, members of the Union, in the section.

The Sectional Boards are elected annually, and have control of all work connected with the Union carried on within the limits of their respective sections, but the expenditure on sectional work is fixed for any financial year by the United Board, a body described hereafter.

VACANCIES.

Vacancies occurring in the sections are filled up as follows :—

- (1) If at the last election any candidate not elected has obtained not less than 20 per cent of the total number of votes that could be obtained

the vacancy shall be filled up by appointing that candidate, or if there is more than one vacancy and more than one such candidate those candidates in the order of the number of votes obtained by them respectively.

(2) A vacancy which cannot be thus filled up shall be filled by appointing the person whom the section in which the vacancy occurs recommend—if the election is sectional, and whom the executive of the district recommend—if the election is made by any conference association, and in default of any such recommendation, such person as the United Board select.

(3) A member of any Sectional Board shall be deemed to have vacated his office if he becomes a bankrupt, or makes any arrangements with his creditors, or if without the leave of the Board or some other reason accepted by it as sufficient he has absented himself from two successive meetings.

CENTRAL BOARD.

The Central Board is the governing body of the Union, and comprises the whole of the members of the seven Sectional Boards, with two members from the Irish Section. It is in its turn subject to

CONGRESS,

which is the annual meeting of the Union and is composed of—

- (a) All members of the various sections of the Central Board who hold office at the time the Congress is held;
- (b) The representatives of the district conference associations;
- (c) Delegates from societies, members of the Union, which subscribe to its funds not less than the amount required by rule.

ADMINISTRATION.

The internal administration of the Union is carried on in the following manner :—

THE CENTRAL BOARD.

is the governing body. This Board meets immediately after its election, to decide its general policy for the year, and just before Congress, to consider its report to Congress. During recent years it has also met during the interval to consider special matters referred to it by the United Board. A large amount of executive work is carried on in the interval between the Congress meetings. This is delegated to the

UNITED BOARD

and its various committees. The United Board consists of representatives from the Sectional Boards, and is constituted as follows :—

North-Western Section—four representatives.

Midland, Northern, Scottish, and Southern Sections—two representatives each.

Irish, South-Western, and Western Sections—one representative each.

These appointments are made at the first meeting of each section held within ten days after any Congress. The United Board, by rule, holds its first meeting within one month after Congress, and afterwards meets in the months of September, November, January, March, and May. The powers of the United Board, subject to any resolution of Congress or the Central Board, are—

(1) To control the disposal of the funds of the Union according to its rules.

(2) To appoint and, if needful, remove all officers of the Union, and fix their duties and salaries.

(3) To determine any question as to the limits assigned to the several sections.

(4) To fill up vacancies in the members of the sections in accordance with Rule 31.

(5) To refer any subject, whether or not forming part of any matter specially referred to by the Congress or the Central Board, to any section, and to require a report thereon.

(6) To appoint any committee, either of its own members or of any members of the Central Board, for any purposes connected with the operations of the Union that it may think expedient, with such powers, within the limits of its own authority, as it may think fit.

(7) To publish, or authorise the publication, in the name of the Union of any works which it may approve.

(8) To transact any other business, or do or authorise any other matters or things which it may consider to be conducive to the welfare of the Union and the proper conduct of its operations.

During the intervals of the meetings of the United Board the operations of the Union are conducted by a body called the

OFFICE COMMITTEE,

which is appointed by and from the members of the United Board, and consists of one member from each Sectional Board, except the North-Western Section, which has two representatives. The Office Committee is the permanent executive of the United Board, and its functions are as follow:—

(1) To make to each meeting of the United Board a report which shall be drawn by the general secretary, and signed by him in the name of the committee after it has been settled by them, and to state the matters to be brought before the Board either for its information or decision.

(2) To refer to the Central Board any matter arising subsequently to the last meeting of the United Board in the Congress year, consequent upon any resolution of such meeting.

(3) To appoint from its own members an executive sub-committee, to which it may delegate any of its functions as an executive, and which shall report its proceedings regularly to the committee.

From the Office Committee is appointed a

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE,

whose business it is to check and scrutinise accounts, sign cheques, and control expenditure, &c

There are also other committees for work of a special character. Their constitutions and functions are as follow :—

THE CENTRAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

This committee is composed of representatives appointed by the Sectional Boards, the Sectional Educational Committees' Associations, and the English Women's Guild. The A.U.C.E. was also represented on the committee from 1912 to 1917. The function of the Central Education Committee is to direct and guide the educational activities of the movement, and to promote classes for teaching the history and principles of co-operation, bookkeeping, management, and cognate subjects. It issues an annual programme and lecture list, provides lectures, teachers for classes, prizes, scholarships, certificates, &c.

The Central Education Committee is divided into sub-committees for the purpose of carrying on the various phases of its work. These are as follow :—

Educational Sub-committee.

Publications Sub-committee (jointly with the United Board).

Secretaries' Examination Board (jointly with the Secretaries' Association).

Managers' Examination Board.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

This committee is composed of four representatives from the United Board, with four from the English and four from the Scottish Wholesale Societies. Its office is to watch legislation, examine new Bills, and endeavour to protect co-operative interests in Parliament, as well as in the administration of legislation and of the orders issued by Government Departments. The work of the committee has always been important, and during the period of the war has assumed even greater importance. In helping societies in the interpretation and administration of food-control orders, in securing co-operative representation on Government Committees, in protecting the interests of societies in the administration of Military Service Acts, and in many other ways, the work of the committee during the period of the war has grown very considerably and been of great service to the movement.

CO-OPERATIVE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE.

This committee has only recently been called into existence, and was established as a result of the decision of the Swansea Congress that the movement should enter the political arena. Its establishment and constitution were approved at an emergency conference held in October, 1917. The constitution approved was as follows :—

The Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee shall be for the time being a sub-committee of the Joint Parliamentary Committee,

and shall consist of eight members drawn from the Parliamentary Committee, four of whom shall be representatives of the Co-operative Union, two representatives each of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, two members directly elected by the Central Board of the Co-operative Union, to which shall be added one representative of the English and one representative of the Scottish Women's Co-operative Guild.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

This committee is composed of four members each from the Co-operative Union and the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress. Its primary object is to deal with disputes, which, happily, are not frequent in co-operative societies.

UNITED ADVISORY COUNCIL OF TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

This council was established as a result of resolutions passed at the Trades Union Congress in 1916 and the Co-operative Congress in 1917. Its objects are stated at length in the report of the Co-operative Emergency Conference held at London in October, 1917. Briefly, they consist of promoting a closer relationship between the co-operative and trade union movements, for the purpose of strengthening both movements by mutual aid and more frequent joint action. The council is composed of six representatives appointed by the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee and six representatives appointed by the Central Board of the Co-operative Union.

JOINT EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE.

This committee was established in 1901 to organise and control exhibitions of co-operative productions. It is composed of four representatives appointed by the Co-operative Union, four by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and three by the Co-operative Productive Federation. The demands for co-operative exhibitions have been very numerous, and the work done up to the present has been very effective.

JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE.

Three representatives from the Co-operative Union and four from the English Co-operative Wholesale Society compose this committee. It meets periodically to organise special propaganda work in different parts of the country. A permanent organiser is employed, who visits new districts and helps in the establishment of new societies. Weak and struggling societies are assisted with advice. A permanent organiser for Ireland has also been appointed, who works under the supervision of the Irish Executive Committee. There was also one for Scotland, jointly with the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, but this appointment has now ceased.

CO-OPERATIVE DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

This committee, which consists of representatives from the Co-operative Union, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the Productive Federation,

was appointed in 1902 to oppose the traders' boycott of co-operators, which it did most successfully. It is now a standing committee of the Union, and is ready at any time to protect the interests of co-operators.

FINANCE.

The annual income of the Union is raised by subscriptions from societies affiliated thereto. The rate of subscription is fixed by rule at 1½d. in respect to each member of a distributive society, and is calculated according to the number of members returned by each society in its last annual return to the Registrar. A different arrangement is made in respect of co-operative societies other than distributive societies, a special rate being fixed by the United Board. The capital of the Union is made up of shares of the nominal value of 5s. Each society affiliated holds one share only, and the amount of the share is paid out of the first contributions received from the respective societies. This income is increased by the sale of books, pamphlets, &c. The funds of the Union are used in its propaganda and educational activities, expenses of Boards and committees, grants to sections, women's guilds, &c.; detailed particulars of which may be obtained from the Congress Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

OBJECTS OF THE UNION.

The present "objects" rule of the Union does not, in our opinion, adequately express the functions of the Union and the principles for which it stands. We, therefore, recommend the amendment of the rule by the addition of the italicised words in the following amended rule, viz. :—

RULE 2.—The objects of the Union are the establishment of a co-operative commonwealth (1) by the propagation of co-operative principles and ideas; (2) the organisation of co-operative work in all its branches, whether such work be in connection with industries, trades, or businesses; (3) the promotion of education; (4) the undertaking and executing of any trust, either gratuitously or otherwise, where such should be deemed desirable. In furtherance of these objects the Union shall have full power to carry on the trades and businesses of accountants, booksellers, commercial and general advisers, publishers, and arbiters in matters of dispute arising between societies which cannot be settled locally. The Union shall have full powers to do all things necessary or expedient for the accomplishment of all objects specified in its rules, including the power to purchase, hold, sell, exchange, mortgage, rent, lease, sub-lease, land of any tenure, and to erect, pull down, repair, alter, or otherwise deal with any building thereon.

MEMBERSHIP.

The question of membership of the Union, and its authority over the societies affiliated to it, has also exercised our minds, and we are of opinion that the rules relating thereto should be amended so as to exclude from

membership all bodies which do not carry out co-operative principles and ideas in accordance with the expressed objects of the Union, and, further, to strengthen the position of the Union and give it more authority over affiliated societies by making provision that no society shall be allowed to remain in membership with the Union which does not abide by its rules, conform to its aims, and accept the decisions of the Central Board confirmed by Congress.

We also think the time has arrived when societies on joining the Union should undertake to submit for arbitration any differences which may arise with regard to overlapping. We, therefore, suggest the following should be added to Rule 9, viz. :—

Societies in arranging their field of trading operations shall have regard to the possibilities of extension of neighbouring societies and of closer union on federation or amalgamation lines. Any disagreement that may arise as to overlapping, &c., which cannot be settled between the societies concerned shall be submitted to the Co-operative Union as arbitrators, and their decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

ADMINISTRATION.

As regards the administration of the affairs of the Union we think some reorganisation is necessary, and we recommend an altogether new departure in several matters connected therewith. For instance, take the

CENTRAL BOARD.

(a) *Meetings of.*—The rules at present provide that the affairs of the Union shall be administered by the Central Board, but, in our opinion, this is not done, nor is it possible for the Central Board to carry out properly its duties seeing that it only meets infrequently, and under conditions which make administration impracticable. We suggest that the Central Board should meet at least once every three months, and that the first meeting be held within one month after Congress, at which meeting the resolutions of Congress should be fully discussed, and the necessary steps to be taken to give effect to the same be considered and decided, and, what is of equal importance, the general policy of the Union should be decided upon for the ensuing twelve months. The last meeting of the Central Board should be held not less than one month before Congress in order that ample time may be given for a full consideration of the report which is to be presented to Congress of the work carried out during the year.

(b) *Period of Office.*—It is recommended that all members of the Central Board shall be elected annually as at present.

(c) *Qualifications for Members of the Central Board.*—In order that the Central Board may be composed of those who are best qualified to serve the best interests of the movement, we recommend that certain qualifications for office should be inserted in the rules of the Union, and would suggest the following :—

- (1) A previous period of service on the Central Board ; or

(2) (a) A minimum of three years' service on the general or educational committee of any society member of the Union, or three years' combined service on the general or educational committees; or (b) not less than two years' service on a district committee; or (c) as secretary or manager of a co-operative society for three years.

(d) *Mode of Election of Central Board.*—The method of election of the Central Board has been considered, in the light of the discussion which took place on our proposal that election by districts, as obtains in the Northern and North-Western sections, should be abolished, and that in future there should only be sectional representatives, *i.e.*, sectional nomination and voting. We have consulted the various Sectional Boards on the matter, but without obtaining agreement. As a result of our inquiries we are strongly of opinion that sectional nomination and voting is the best, and we therefore recommend this method should be adopted for all sections.

(e) *Vacancies on the Central Board.*—Dissatisfaction having been expressed at the method of filling vacancies, it is our opinion that in the event of any vacancy arising in any Congress year, it should be filled by the votes of the societies constituting the section affected by such vacancy, such election to be carried out by the board of the section concerned. In the case of a vacancy occurring in the second half of the Congress year the Sectional Board should decide whether such vacancy be filled or not.

(f) *Chairman of Central Board.*—The position of chairman of the Central Board being one of importance we suggest that the following be the conditions governing his appointment, *viz.* :—

(a) That he be elected by ballot by and from the members of the Central Board.

(b) That each section be entitled to send in nominations for the position, the retiring chairman being eligible for re-election.

(c) That the election take place at the first meeting of the Central Board after Congress in each year.

(g) *Removal from Office.*—Rule 30 (3) gives power to the United Board to suspend or remove any member of the Central Board. In view of the proposed new constitution we suggest that this power be vested in the Central Board and that any Sectional Board be empowered to suspend, but not to remove, in any case where it thinks such a course desirable, pending the decision of the Central Board.

(h) *Standing Orders for Central Board Meetings.*—It would appear that there have never been any standing orders governing Central Board meetings. This, we think, has been an oversight, and certainly the business of such a large and important body as the Central Board could be more efficiently and expeditiously carried out if a code of standing orders were adopted for the guidance of the chairman and the members of the Board. We have endeavoured to draw up a suitable code, and append same herewith for your consideration and adoption or otherwise :—

PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS FOR CENTRAL BOARD MEETINGS.

1. Each member who rises to speak must address the chair and direct his speech to the motion or the question under discussion, or to a question of order.

2. Whenever the chairman rises during a discussion any member then speaking, or offering to speak, must resume his seat.

3. A motion must be proposed and seconded before any discussion can be allowed thereon.

4. The proposer of a motion or an amendment shall be allowed ten minutes for his speech, and each succeeding speaker shall be allowed five minutes.

5. On the motion that the speaker be further heard five minutes, the chairman shall take the sense of the meeting, but without discussion.

6. No member shall be permitted to speak more than once on the same proposition, except the proposer, who shall have the right of reply before the proposition (or the first amendment) is put. He shall be allowed five minutes for reply, and must confine himself strictly to answering previous speakers and not introduce any new matter.

7. Whenever an amendment is made upon any motion no second amendment shall be taken into consideration until the first amendment is disposed of. If that amendment is carried it shall then be put as a substantive motion, upon which further amendments may be made. If the first amendment is negatived then a further amendment may be moved to the original question, but only one amendment shall be submitted for discussion at one time.

8. It shall be competent for any member at the close of any speech to move without discussion "that the question be now put," and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith. Should the motion be carried the mover of the original motion may reply, after which the motion or amendment shall be at once put to the meeting.

9. At the close of any speech it shall be competent for any member to move "That the matter under discussion be proceeded with no further," or "That the discussion be adjourned," always provided that any such motion shall be formally seconded and put without discussion.

10. A member who has spoken on the matter under discussion may ask a question relevant to the motion before the meeting, but must not discuss the question before the meeting.

11. When the motion is put the chairman shall repeat clearly the terms of such motion and demand a show of hands, or any ten members may demand a ballot before the chairman declares such motion lost or carried. If the motion is put to the meeting by the chairman and there is no demand for a ballot before such motion is put the decision of the chairman shall be binding.

12. No motion shall be rescinded at the same meeting at which it is carried.

13. Upon a point of order suddenly arising any member may speak if he commences by a statement that he rises to order. The member who was addressing the meeting must thereupon resume his seat until the point of order is decided, and so also must the member who rose to order when he concludes his appeal to the chair.

14. Two tellers shall be appointed at each meeting of the Board.

15. The decision of the chairman upon any point shall be final.

(i) *Central Board Executive*.—Under the scheme as drafted by this sub-committee the United Board is dispensed with, the Central Board entering more fully into the administration of the affairs of the Union. An executive of the Central Board will, however, be necessary in order to carry on the work of the Union during the intervals between the Central Board meetings. This executive, which need not be a large one, we recommend should be known as the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The United Board is at present composed of fifteen members, but, of course, it has to deal with numerous important matters which will henceforth, if the scheme be adopted, be dealt with by the Central Board. The proposed Finance and General Purposes Committee, which is purely and solely an executive to deal with internal matters connected with the Union, should be composed as follows, viz.:—Irish, Midland, Northern, Scottish, Southern, South-Western, and Western sections, one representative each, and the North-Western Section two representatives, which makes a committee of nine persons. The chairman of the Central Board for the time being to act also as chairman of this committee. We recommend that the committee should hold its first meeting of the Congress year within one month after the first meeting of the Central Board, and afterwards meet every six weeks at such times and places as the committee may fix from time to time. We further recommend that

The Finance and General Purposes Committee shall—

1. Administer the affairs of the Union in the intervals between the meetings of the Central Board.

2. Subject to resolutions of Congress and the Central Board and the rules of the Union, control the funds of the Union.

3. Appoint and, if needful, remove and be responsible for the discipline of the office staff; also fix their duties and salaries.

4. Arrange for the carrying out of Congress resolutions and the decisions of the Central Board as may be directed by that Board.

5. Be responsible for the publication of all literature in the name of the Union under the authority of the Central Board.

6. Arrange to be presented at each meeting of the Central Board reports of its own transactions and those of the committees appointed by and acting under the direction of the Central Board.

7. Prepare the agenda for Central Board meetings as provided in Rule 29.

8. Transact any other business or do or authorise any other matters or things which it may consider to be conducive to the welfare of the Union and the proper conduct of its operations.

9. Appoint, if necessary; from its own members a sub-committee to which it may delegate any of its functions as an executive, and which shall report its proceedings regularly to the committee.

And all resolutions of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, within the limits of its powers hereby given, shall be binding on all members of the Union to the same extent as if they had been resolutions of the Congress.

SECTIONAL BOUNDARIES.

We have made exhaustive inquiry into the question of the boundaries of each section of the Union with the idea of ascertaining whether or not there is any need for improvement in the conditions at present existing from the point of view of both efficiency and economy.

We have circularised the Sectional Boards in regard to the matter, and from the replies received there does not appear to be any general desire for an alteration of present arrangements. Three of the Sectional Boards did express the opinion that the boundaries of their own particular sections might with advantage be reviewed, and gave detailed suggestions of what they thought should be carried out. However, as these suggestions were purely of a local nature, we think the question might well be left with the sections concerned for the time being in the hope that they may be able to make such arrangements as may be mutually satisfactory. It is a difficult matter to settle any question of boundaries between two given sections, and it is rather outside the scope of this sub-committee to attempt to do so. In our opinion the time is not far distant when a general revision of boundaries will become necessary in order to meet the new conditions created by the increasing expansion of the movement, and in order that we may adequately and efficiently carry on our work. We should, however, strongly deprecate any rearrangement of sections which had not for its object a complete reorganisation of the Union's work in sections from the national point of view. We would therefore suggest that if and when the new arrangements for carrying on the work of the Union are put into operation, the Central Board should appoint a special committee to go into the whole question and bring forward a complete scheme of revised sectional boundaries.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

The question of the appointment of honorary members has also received consideration, and in view of the dissatisfaction expressed in regard to the interpretation of this rule we recommend that it be amended to allow of permanent officials and others being eligible for election under more satisfactory conditions. The suggested new rule will read as follows:—

Past members of the Central Board who have served as members of the Board for not less than ten years, or who have completed ten years' combined service on the Central Board and on the committee of a District Association, or who have served on the Board and in an official capacity, whether as a permanent official of the Union or as secretary of a District

Association, for not less than ten years, may be elected honorary members of the Board.

COMMITTEES OF THE UNION.

As mentioned in our report to the Lancaster Congress, we have given careful consideration to the constitution of the various committees of the Union, and the following are the conclusions we have arrived at, viz. :—

(a) *United Board, Office Committee, Finance Committee.*—In accordance with the proposed new constitution, the above committees should be dispensed with and their functions undertaken by the Central Board and its Executive.

(b) *Committee on Education.*—We have given consideration to the constitution of the Committee on Education and, in consultation with the Survey Education Sub-committee, a scheme has been prepared for the formation of a National Co-operative Auxiliary Council for Educational and General Purposes, from which it is proposed to elect an Educational Executive. Full details of this council are given on pages 52 and 53. To carry on the detailed committee work of the educational department the committee recommend that there be appointed annually by the Auxiliary Council from its own members, and confirmed by the Central Board, an executive of seven members, to meet as required, with expenses paid out of the funds of the Union. We recommend that this executive consist of four members representing the sections, two members representing the educational associations, and one member from the representatives of other bodies that are represented on the Council, with a member of the permanent staff of the Union as secretary to the committee. The representative character of the Council would, the committee think, lead to a better co-ordination of the educational work of the movement, and promote extension on lines most likely to meet the movement's needs, whilst the constitution of the executive would enable the necessary administrative work to be carried on efficiently and in accordance with the various needs of the movement as expressed through the Council.

(c) *Joint Parliamentary Committee.*—The present constitution of this committee is as follows, viz. :—Four representatives from the Co-operative Union, four representatives from the English Co-operative Wholesale Society, and four representatives from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. There has been a growing feeling for some time that the Co-operative Union has not had adequate representation on this committee, and, seeing that the Union is fully representative of all co-operative interests in the United Kingdom, we think the time has arrived when this committee should be a committee of the Central Board. In view, however, of the conditions at present prevailing, we think it would be inadvisable to alter its constitution until after the war. We, therefore, recommend that the

whole matter should be taken into consideration at the first Congress after the declaration of peace. We also recommend, in order to obtain greater continuity of representation of the Union on this committee during present conditions, the appointment of Union representatives should be made by the Central Board at its first meeting after Congress, and that the retiring members be eligible for re-election.

(d) *Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee*.—This committee is for the present a sub-committee of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, but, in order to ensure the fullest efficiency in its work, we recommend that in future it should be a committee of the Co-operative Union, responsible to the Central Board.

(e) *Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators*.

(f) *United Advisory Council of Trade-unionists and Co-operators*.

(g) *Joint Exhibitions Committee*.

(h) *Co-operative Defence Committee*.

In our opinion these committees should be continued on their present basis.

(i) *Joint Propaganda Committee*.—At present the propaganda work of the movement is carried on—

(1) In England and Wales, by a joint committee of three representatives from the Co-operative Union and four from the English Co-operative Wholesale Society. A specially appointed propagandist agent works under their control.

(2) In Scotland, by a special committee consisting of representatives from the Scottish Sectional Board, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, the District Associations, and the Women's Guild; and the committee is financed principally by the Union and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. An agent is employed by this committee.

(3) In Ireland a permanent organiser is employed by the United Board, and he works under the supervision of the Irish Executive.

We have given serious attention to the general aspect of propaganda work in the movement, and have come to the following conclusion, viz. :—

That the time has arrived when the propaganda work of the movement should be entirely under the control of the Co-operative Union, we, therefore, recommend (1) that this committee should be representative of each of the Sectional Boards, and (2) that a number of permanent organisers should be appointed who would be able to advise societies in difficulties, and also deal with such questions as overlapping and amalgamation, &c. The number of organisers to be appointed would be a matter for consideration after sanction of the proposal has been given.

(j) *Publications Committee*.—This committee at present is composed of five representatives from the Education Committee and two representatives from the United Board. In our opinion it is advisable

that the Educational Executive should be closely associated with the work of the committee, and we recommend that in future its constitution should be as follows, viz.:—Three representatives from the Central Board and three from the Education Executive, who also must be members of the Central Board. In view of the fact that the Statistical Department has now been allocated to this committee, we recommend that in future it be known as the Statistical and General Publications Committee.

(k) *Conciliation Boards*.—In view of the fact that these Boards have only recently been formed, we think it desirable their constitution and work should be tested before any alteration is considered.

COUNCIL OF AUXILIARY BODIES AND EDUCATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

For some years past there has been a growing desire for a closer working connection between the Co-operative Union and the other organisations in the movement. With this end in view we have consulted with representatives from some of the organisations and asked for their views upon the matter. The Education Survey Sub-committee have also had this question under review, and with the object of preventing any overlapping by the two committees joint meetings have been held at which proposals of a definite character have been considered and agreed to. The conclusions arrived at are that it is desirable (1) to form a National Co-operative Auxiliary Council; and (2) from this Council to elect an Executive which shall have control of all educational work carried on by the Union. Details of the constitution of this Executive will also be found in the report of the Education Sub-committee.

The proposals relating to the Council are as follows:—

(1) *Name*.—The name of the Council shall be the National Co-operative Auxiliary Council for Educational and General Purposes.

(2) *Constitution*.—The Council shall be comprised of representatives of the undermentioned co-operative organisations:—

The Chairman of the Central Board.

*Nine representatives from the Central Board of the Co-operative Union.

*Nine " " Educational Associations.

Four " " Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Two representatives from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

One representative " Irish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

One " " Co-operative Productive Federation.

One " " International Co-operative Alliance.

One " " Women's Co-operative Guild (England and Wales).

One " " Women's Co-operative Guild (Scotland).

One " " Women's Co-operative Guild (Ireland).

* Two representatives from the North-Western Section and one from each other section.

One	representative from the	National Co-operative Men's Guild.
One	"	National Co-operative Managers' Association.
One	"	Co-operative Secretaries' Association.
One	"	Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés (who shall be an employé of a society which is a member of the Co-operative Union).
One	"	<i>Co-operative News</i> (Editor).
One	"	<i>Scottish Co-operator</i> (Editor).
One	"	Co-operators' Educational League.
One	representative each from all	other co-operative organisations approved by the Central Board and permitted by them to appoint a representative to the Council.

(3) *Objects*.—The functions of the Council, which shall be of an advisory nature, shall be :—

- (a) To co-ordinate the work of the various bodies represented on the Council.
- (b) To consider questions of interest and importance to the co-operative movement.
- (c) To make suggestions to the Central Board and the Educational Executive in relation to such questions as the Council may have considered.

(4) *Meetings*.—Three meetings of the Council shall be held each year.

(5) *Expenses*.—The expenses of the Council shall be borne by the bodies represented thereon, as far as attendance at meetings is concerned, subject to any grants in aid being made by the Central Board, other expenses to be borne by the Co-operative Union.

(6) *President*.—The chairman of the Central Board for the time being shall act as the President of the Council, and shall be additional to the nine representatives appointed by the Central Board.

(7) *Secretarial Work*.—The secretarial work of the Council and the Educational Executive shall be undertaken by permanent officials of the Co-operative Union, as appointed by the Central Board.

(8) *General*.—It shall be competent for the Council to give its opinion on any question of co-operative policy, either upon its own initiative or at the request of the Central Board. It shall be within the power of the Central Board to appoint from the Council, panels for consultation or other special purposes, and particularly for research work undertaken by the Union.

FEES OF CENTRAL BOARD, SECTIONAL BOARDS, AND DISTRICT EXECUTIVES.

The fees payable under the present rules to members of the Central Board, Sectional Boards, and District Executives are as follows, viz. :—

1. To the members of the Central Board for attendance at Congress, or at a meeting of the Central Board, third-class return fares, a travelling allowance of one halfpenny per mile, and 10s. per day for expenses.

2. To the members of the United Board, and to the members of any committee constituted by the Congress, Central Board, or United Board, third-class return fares, a travelling allowance of one halfpenny per mile, and 10s. per day for expenses.

3. To the members of each section for attendance at sectional meetings, third-class return fares, a travelling allowance of one halfpenny per mile, and 2s. 6d. to cover expenses.

4. To the members of the sections attending any meeting by appointment of the section, third-class return fares, a travelling allowance at the rate of one halfpenny per mile, and for expenses, if it is not necessary to stay overnight, 2s. 6d.; if it is necessary to stay overnight, 10s.; and if the time necessarily occupied exceeds twenty-four hours, £1.

5. To the members of District Executives for attending meetings, conferences, or deputations, a fee of 2s. 6d. is paid, plus third-class return railway fares and a travelling allowance of one halfpenny per mile.

We have considered whether it is desirable that any alteration should be made, and, in view of the increased cost of living, we think the fees should be increased in certain instances, and we therefore make the following recommendations, viz. :—

1. That the fee payable to members of the Central Board when attending Congress should be 15s. per day, plus third-class return railway fares and the allowance of one halfpenny per mile travelled.

2. That the fee payable to members of the Central Board, United Board, and Central Committees when attending the usual meetings of such boards or committees be 15s.

3. That a fee of 5s. be paid to members of Sectional Boards for attendance at all sectional meetings, also for sectional appointments, such fee to cover all meetings held on the same day at the same place. That a fee of 20s. be paid where it is necessary to stay overnight, and if the time occupied necessarily exceeds twenty-four hours a fee of 25s. be allowed.

FINANCES.

If the suggestions made in the report of the Survey Committee are adopted there will necessarily be a large increase in the expenditure of the Union. We think this increased expenditure will be met for the time being by the natural increase in subscriptions paid by societies, consequent on their increased membership, and we do not therefore propose at present to recommend any alteration in the rate of subscription of 1½d. per member per annum.

We do, however, think it is essential that the Central Board should each year have some idea as to the amount of funds which will be required to carry on effectively the work of the Union, and we therefore recommend that the

Sectional Boards, and all committees connected with the Union, should present an annual budget or estimate of expenditure for the ensuing twelve months to the Central Board at its first meeting after Congress, in respect of the funds required for carrying on the work allotted to them.

PERMANENT EXECUTIVE OF THE UNION.

The question of the appointment of a permanent executive of the Union having been raised by the North-Western Section the matter was referred to this committee for inquiry and consideration as to its advisability. The Sectional Boards have been consulted, and whilst the majority of the Boards are not favourable to such an important change being made in administering the affairs of the Union, we feel, as a committee, that the time has arrived when an alteration in this direction is imperative. At present the services of a number of members of the Central Board and particularly those who are acting for the Union on the Joint Parliamentary Committee, are in constant demand, and, seeing that under present-day conditions decisions of vital importance to the movement have to be made at short notice, we are convinced that it is necessary to appoint a full-time salaried executive. We therefore recommend the appointment of such an executive, and if this recommendation meets with the approval of Congress we recommend that the Central Board be instructed to prepare a scheme for submission to next Congress. If this recommendation be adopted some alteration in details will be required in carrying out our other recommendations.

RELATIONSHIP OF AUXILIARY BODIES TO THE UNION.

The relation to the Union of the various auxiliary bodies connected with the movement is a matter which was referred to this sub-committee by the Central Board. We certainly think there should be more cohesion between the Union and the various auxiliary bodies, such as the Women's Guilds, Men's Guilds, Students' Fellowship, &c., which are not, and cannot be, members of the Union, and we recommend—

- (1) That the term "auxiliary bodies" should include such bodies whose constitution has been approved by the Union, and which express their willingness to recognise the ultimate authority of the Union.
- (2) That the Central Board should be directly represented on all such auxiliary bodies by such number of representatives, not exceeding two, as the Central Board may decide.
- (3) That the Central Board shall have power to make grants to such auxiliary bodies to enable them to properly carry out their work.

With the object of more clearly defining the relationship of auxiliary bodies to the Union, we suggest that the following new rule should be adopted, viz. :—

Such co-operative organisations as are formed mainly for other purposes than the carrying on of trade, and whose operations extend over a wider area than that of a district Conference Association, may be

regarded and recognised by the Union as co-operative auxiliary bodies, providing—

- (1) Application for recognition be made to the Central Board in writing;
- (2) Their constitution, objects, and methods are approved by the Central Board;
- (3) That there be unqualified acceptance at all times on their part of the decisions of Congress and the authority of the Central Board of the Union.

Such bodies may, with the consent, previously obtained, of the Central Board, send a delegate to Congress, but any such delegate must be a member of a society which is a member of the Union, and shall not be eligible to vote by reason of being a delegate of an auxiliary body.

VOTING AT CONFERENCES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF AUXILIARY BODIES.

With regard to auxiliary bodies which are not registered, such as the Women's and Men's Guilds, &c., and which cannot therefore become members of the Union, we are anxious that, as far as possible, they should be given an opportunity of expressing their opinion and voting at conferences convened by the Union. Only those organisations, however, which are members of the Union can vote on matters affecting its constitution and finances, but, as far as other questions are concerned, we recommend that the representatives of the guilds, educational committees, &c., should have a vote.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

(a) *Uniformity of Rules.*

We have had the rules of nearly all the district associations before us, and have given careful consideration to the provisions contained therein. We think it would tend to efficiency within the movement if a uniform code of rules were adopted for all district associations, in order to place them all on the same footing. Special rules to meet local circumstances could, of course, be added with the consent of the Sectional Board concerned. From the data which has been supplied to us we have prepared such a code, which is given below :—

MODEL RULES FOR A DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

1. The name of the association shall be the District Co-operative Association.
2. The association shall consist of all registered co-operative societies, members of the Co-operative Union, within the district of
3. The association shall be governed by an executive committee, consisting of _____ members, viz., a chairman, a district secretary, and _____ committee-men, together with a representative from the

Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union Limited (three of whom shall form a quorum). The executive shall be elected annually in accordance with the following rules, viz. :—

(a) The societies shall, on voting papers to be sent to them for that purpose, elect representatives to the executive or societies which shall appoint one member each to the executive committee. Societies shall have as many votes as there are vacancies to be filled, but shall not cast more than one vote for any candidate.

(b) The secretary of the association shall be elected by the conference at its annual meeting.

(c) Should there be a tie in the voting the chairman of the annual conference shall take a vote by show of hands of the delegates present, and the nominee or society, as the case may be, receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

(d) The persons so appointed shall elect the chairman from their own body, who shall also be president of the association.

(e) Members of the executive shall have power to vote on all matters, submitted to the conferences, with the exception of the election of the executive.

4. The general meetings of the association shall be held quarterly, and the meeting held previous to Congress in each year shall be called the annual meeting of the association. The reports of the association shall be submitted to the annual sectional conference for discussion and approval.

5. The duties of the secretary shall be to keep a record of all the proceedings of the association and of the executive committee; to arrange for all conferences and other meetings in connection therewith; to conduct the correspondence, and to furnish reports of the work done to the Sectional Board and the *Co-operative News*.

Except where a special treasurer is appointed the secretary shall be held responsible for all funds, whether supplied by the Co-operative Union Limited, or obtained direct from the societies, and shall pay all accounts on behalf of the association. A statement of the income and expenditure of the district shall be submitted to the executive previous to Congress, and then forwarded to the Central Office of the Union, along with the report of the district, in time for inclusion in the report to Congress.

6. Each society in the association shall supply the district secretary with a copy of each of its balance sheets as they are published, and also with any other necessary information which the association may from time to time require.

7. The meetings of the executive committee shall be held at such times as they determine, subject to any direction of the quarterly conferences, and of the regulations drawn up for the guidance of district executives by the Central Board of the Co-operative Union Limited.

8. In addition to the grants from the Co-operative Union, the expenses of the association may be met by a contribution of from the societies in the district.

9. All societies, educational committees, and the Women's and Men's Guild branches of each society allocated to the district, together with any other organisation approved by the district, whether members of the Co-operative Union or not, shall receive two invitations to attend all conferences. Only delegates of management committees, and those appointed by the general meetings of societies which are members of the Co-operative Union, shall have power to vote in the election of officers of the association, the expenditure of funds, or on any other matter dealing with the constitution of the district. Each society shall be entitled to two votes. The Congress scale of voting shall be adopted in connection with all matters remitted by Congress for the decision of sections and districts.

10. No rule of the association shall be altered or rescinded, nor shall any new rule be adopted, unless with the consent of a majority of representatives of the district association conference and of the Sectional Board.

Should the Sectional Board for any reason withhold their consent, the district association may make a direct appeal to the Central Board, whose decision shall be final and binding upon the association concerned.

(b) Consideration of Reports.

It is the practice in one or two of the sections to have an annual conference for the purpose of discussing both the Sectional and District Associations' reports. This practice appears to give the greatest satisfaction where it is adopted, and we would like to see it extended to the other sections. We have included a provision in the model code of rules set forth above, and also in the rules of the Union, making the holding of such a conference compulsory.

VOTING AT SECTIONAL AND DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

With regard to the question of voting at sectional and district conferences, we have carefully considered the matter, and we recommend the adoption of the Congress scale of voting in connection with all matters remitted by Congress for the decision of sections and districts.

We understand that representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society attending sectional and district conferences have complained that they have no voting power at such conferences. As it is advisable that the Co-operative Wholesale Society should have a voice in the matters dealt with at these conferences we make the following recommendations, viz. :—

That the Co-operative Wholesale Societies and similar societies federated with the Union shall, in the matter of voting, be treated on the same lines as ordinary subscribing societies. (See Rule 9 of proposed Model Rules for a District Association.)

As regards those organisations which are not eligible to become members of the Union, we recommend their representatives should have a vote on all questions except those of constitution and finance.

CONGRESS PROCEDURE.

Considerable time has been spent in discussing the best means of increasing the usefulness of Congress. We feel that under present conditions Congress is far too unwieldy and therefore incapable of properly carrying out the important work it has to do. If it were at all possible we would like to see Congress divided into sections, somewhat on the lines of the British Association meetings, for the discussion of the report on the various departments of the work of the movement. We are of opinion, however, that the time is not yet opportune for such a drastic alteration in the mode of procedure, but are agreed that some departure from present methods is necessary in order that the proceedings at Congress may be carried out in a more efficient manner. In the consideration of this matter it has been decided by the sub-committee that in the rearrangement of the Congress business the fullest authority and greatest efficiency of Congress itself should take first place. In order to secure these ends it is considered that a more detailed discussion of the Central Board Report, and of all matters appertaining thereto, is desirable. In order to carry this out we recommend—

(a) That the agenda and report to Congress should be divided into sections under the following or similar heads :—

- (1) Cereimonial.
- (2) Trading and Statistical.
- (3) Administrative and Parliamentary.
- (4) Propagandist and Educational.

(b) That at the Central Board meeting held prior to Congress, at which the report is considered, certain persons might be appointed to take charge of each section and be responsible for presenting it to Congress.

(c) That the Central Board, in view of the report before them, should allot the time to be allowed for the discussion of each section, and prepare a time-table for adoption by Congress. Such a time-table might be arranged as follows :—

Monday morning : Opening Cereimonial, Inaugural Address, Reception of Deputations, &c.

Monday afternoon : Trading and Statistical.

Tuesday morning : Administrative and Parliamentary.

Tuesday afternoon : Propagandist and Educational.

Wednesday morning : Congress Paper—Reading and discussion ; General matters ; Votes of Thanks.

(d) That if, owing to the amount of business to be transacted, Congress proceedings are likely to be prolonged, the Central Board should suggest an extension of the time of Congress as occasion demanded.

Under present conditions there is always a good deal of disturbance caused by the ebb and flow of people from and into the hall during

discussion. We are of opinion that if Congress were departmentalised in the manner set out above, and a time-table prepared, much of this annoyance would be avoided, and, consequently, more serious attention and consideration given to each section of the report.

CENTRAL BOARD AND CONGRESS RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

In view of the contribution made by the Union towards Congress expenditure, this sub-committee is of opinion that the recommendations and suggestions of the Reception Committee should from time to time be submitted to the Central Board or its executive, and that the Central Board should be adequately represented through the section on the Reception Committee.

RESOLUTIONS SENT IN BY SOCIETIES.

By the Blackley ; Burslem and District ; Failsworth ; Liverpool ; Manchester and Salford ; Nuneaton ; Stockport ; and Warrington Societies—

1. CO-OPERATIVE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

That the Parliamentary interests of the Co-operative Movement as regards administration and legislation should be delegated to a committee responsible to the Co-operative Union, and that the two Wholesale Societies, and any other co-operative organisation, of which Congress shall approve, and which is concerned with the work of the Parliamentary Committee, shall appoint special representatives on the committee, and that the Survey Committee consider and present a report to the Central Board within six months for circulation to the sections and district associations in sufficient time for consideration previous to next year's Congress, as to the number and method of election of the committee and the Organisations which should be represented thereon.

By the North-Western Section Co-operative Educational Committees' Association Limited—

2. SURVEY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

This Congress is of opinion that the Survey Committee's report regarding education is most unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it sets up a committee that is unwieldy ; is not democratically elected ; has not direct connection with the societies ; and is not controlled by them.

The Executive Committee is also objectionable, owing to the proposal that only two members shall be representative of the educational side of the movement.

It is further of opinion that a Central Educational Committee should consist of not more than 15 members and that it should be elected from societies members' meetings directly.

The expenses of all the members of the Central Education Committee should be borne by the Co-operative Union.

By the Blackley; Burslem and District; Failsworth; Liverpool; Manchester and Salford; Nuneaton; Stockport; and Warrington Societies—

PERMANENT EXECUTIVE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

That the administration of the Co-operative Union should be controlled by a small, full-time, salaried committee, representatives of the various sections of the Co-operative Union, in place of the present United Board and Office Committee and such other Central Committees as may seem desirable, and that the Co-operative Survey Committee consider and present a report to the Central Board within six months, for circulation to the sections and district associations in sufficient time for consideration previous to next year's Congress, as to the number of such committee, the method of their election and their remuneration, duties, and powers, and also recommend the necessary alteration of rules to put this change into effect.

B.—Recommendations for the Organisation of the Administration of the Central Office of the Co-operative Union.

The growing work of the Union and the increasing complexity of the work, makes necessary a consideration of the organisation of the Central Office with a view to securing the most efficient administration. In our opinion the work can be divided into the following main sections, and each section might with advantage be the work of a special department of the Union with its own expert staff.

- (a) Legal.
- (b) Accounting and Audit.
- (c) Education.
- (d) Statistical and Trade Information.
- (e) Propaganda and Publicity.
- (f) Publications.
- (g) Labour.
- (h) Political.
- (i) General.

The work of the Union allocated to the various departments might be as follows :—

LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

The opportunities and need for providing legal assistance for societies are constantly increasing, and it is of the utmost importance that the Union should maintain its position and extend its usefulness as legal adviser to societies. The legal work, in the past, has been principally advising societies in regard to matters connected with the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, and matters connected with new Acts of Parliament, *e.g.*, Workmen's Compensation Act and Insurance Act when they were introduced.

The Acts of Parliament affecting societies are now so numerous, and the legislation so complex, that a department specialising in legal matters has

become essential if the Union is to fulfil its duty to societies and maintain its prestige.

With a properly equipped legal department there is no reason why the Union should not go even farther than it has done in the past in helping societies. It could, for example, bring societies into touch with the legal advisers of the Union, and societies might place much of their legal work, such as preparing leases and agreements, with the legal advisers of the Union and employ them in any cases which they may have to take up in the courts.

The legal department would keep in touch with Parliamentary developments (such as changes in the law likely to affect the administration of co-operative societies) and advise societies regarding the bearing of new legislation and departmental orders upon the operations of their businesses. The staff of the department being constantly engaged upon co-operative matters would become well qualified to advise and help societies. The department would naturally keep in close touch with the work of the Parliamentary Committee.

The following summary indicates some of the work of such a department :—

Advising societies *re* Industrial and Provident Acts.

Drafting rules and registering amendments.

Advising on general, commercial, and industrial matters from the legal point of view—

e.g., Food and Drugs Act.

Employers' Liability Act.

Workmen's Compensation Act.

Regulations issued by Home Office and other Government Departments.

Advising on general matters from the legal point of view.

Keeping in touch with legal decisions and Parliamentary developments.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

This department would be responsible for keeping the Union's own accounts, including the collection of subscriptions. The department would give advice, particularly to new societies, regarding forms of accounts. It would also deal with such matters as Income Tax and Excess Profits Duty. It would also undertake for societies, through its staff, the auditing of accounts. In this connection the recognition of the Union as the proper body for the undertaking of the audit of societies' accounts and the transfer to the Union of the audit work now undertaken by the Co-operative Wholesale Society requires some consideration. The Union's agent in Ireland already audits the accounts of most of the distributive societies in Ireland.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

This department would carry on its present work in an expanded form. It would give direction and assistance to the class work of local societies; it

would itself arrange correspondence and oral classes; it would arrange lectures in social and technical subjects and give advice to local societies in regard to similar work. It would arrange week-end summer schools, and assist committees doing similar work. It would promote educational conferences and co-operate with other bodies arranging similar conferences, and would attempt to co-ordinate all the educational work of the movement. It would, as now, arrange an annual Educational Programme and would be assisted for staff purposes by a number of travelling teachers and others located at Holyoake House. In its charge would be the issue of the new educational journal, the "Co-operative Educator," and it would take into its care the supervision of the choirs and choral associations, co-ordinating the work of the sectional choral associations and selecting and suggesting suitable music. It would be the governing authority of the proposed co-operative college, and would maintain joint work with the guilds (men's and women's) and with the secretaries and managers' associations. With outside organisations it would maintain a connection with such bodies as Ruskin College and the Workers' Educational Association. The department should also prove of great utility to societies as an educational advisory body. The department would be under the control of the committee appointed by the Union for educational purposes.

STATISTICS AND TRADE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

There is much work for this department to do. It should be responsible for the preparation of the Union's annual and general statistics, and for their proper analysis and presentation in the most useful form. It would collect statistics of the co-operative movement abroad, and give advice to societies regarding suitable forms of statistics for their purpose.

The department would also collect information regarding trade developments at home and abroad, and, by preparing suitable reports, give a lead to the development of co-operative activities of various kinds.

It would undertake research work of a kind calculated to give assistance in the solution of co-operative business and other problems, and be prepared to give advice to societies regarding the administration of new departments and the improvement of the efficiency of existing departments.

The library would be in charge of the staff of this department. It would have a reference section and a circulating section issuing book boxes for the service of students.

The library would collect co-operative and allied literature. In connection with the library, the department would also collect and prepare slides and other aids to teachers and lecturers.

PROPAGANDA AND PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT.

The need of a thorough organisation and extension of the Union's propaganda work has long been apparent. This department could systematise the propaganda work of the movement, and it could direct the work of the propagandists and organisers whose appointment the Constitution

Committee have already recommended. The department would keep lists of speakers available in different districts for propaganda work. It would supervise the arrangement of propaganda meetings and the distribution of leaflets and other propaganda literature. It would supervise the work of the missionary vans which are proposed for propaganda work. It would take within its purview the organising of exhibitions and all other forms of propaganda and publicity work, such as national and local advertising of a propaganda nature. The department would also be equipped for giving advice to societies regarding local propaganda, and giving them assistance in the way of recommending suitable speakers, preparing suitable mural and other literature.

PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

This department would be responsible for the publication of text books for co-operative students and of books on co-operation for the general reader. It would also issue pamphlets and supervise the issue of conference papers. It would also issue music for co-operative choirs. The department would have charge and undertake the sale of books and other literature and the stock of books and pamphlets of the Union. The *Quarterly Review* of the Union might very well be issued by this department.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

The growing complexity of labour legislation and the increasing need which societies feel for assistance in avoiding and settling labour disputes makes it essential that the Union should have a department specialising in labour matters, and the establishment of this department has been brought appreciably nearer by the appointment of a Labour Adviser. This department would need to keep itself informed regarding labour conditions in the movement and watch legislation and literature affecting labour.

The department would, by reason of its expert knowledge, be prepared to advise societies on labour matters and assist them in cases of arbitration and conciliation, as well as give them expert advice in case of trade disputes. It would be the section of the Union's organisation dealing with arbitration and conciliation boards and hours and wages boards.

The head of the department would be a member (it might be advisable for him to be appointed a secretary) of the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists, and Co-operators.

This department would also be charged with the duty of stimulating opinion in the movement in regard to the maintenance of good conditions of employment. It would keep in touch with what the best employers were doing in the way of welfare work, and would advise societies in regard to this matter. It would also advise the movement in regard to methods of solving labour problems, such as unemployment, reduction of hours, &c.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

In view of the decision of the Swansea Congress respecting co-operative political representation, we feel it essential that there should be a well-

organised political department of the Union. This department should keep in touch with the work of the local political councils, and at all times be in a position to advise and help them in their work. It should prepare and carry out schemes of political propaganda on behalf of the movement and undertake such work as may be necessary to secure the success of co-operative candidates at Parliamentary elections.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

This department would deal with all matters not falling within the province of the departments already enumerated. Some of these matters are :—

(1) Preparation for and organisation of Annual Congress.

(2) Work connected therewith, *e.g.*, preparation of nomination and voting papers, issue of delegates' credentials, preparation of Annual Congress Report.

It would also supervise the printing of the minutes of sectional boards and of other Union committees. It would deal with foreign correspondence and general correspondence. It would also deal with the arrangements for meetings of the Office and General Purposes Committee and of the Central Board.

ORGANISATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

There is a close relation between the work of several of these departments. Thus, the Legal Department and the Labour Department will require to be in consultation frequently, as will the Publications Department, the Educational Department, and the Propaganda Department. For this reason, it is essential that whilst each department specialises in its particular work there should be close co-operation between the departments and adequate co-ordination. The General Secretary of the Union should be looked upon as the person responsible for the proper co-ordination of the work of the various departments, and whilst specially supervising the general work alluded to above, he would also have general supervision of the various other departments through the head of each department. The close and harmonious unity of the various departments would also be promoted by a weekly meeting of heads of departments.

For the organisation of the departments themselves two or three methods are open. One method is to form the following groups :—

No. 1.—Legal.

No. 2.—Accounting and auditing.

No. 3.—Education and statistics.

No. 4.—Propaganda and publications.

No. 5.—Labour.

No. 6.—Political.

No. 7.—General.

Thus the adoption of this method is immediately possible with the present staff.

A second method is to form three groups as follows :—

No. 1.—Legal, accounting, and labour.

No. 2.—Propaganda, education, statistics, publications, and politics.

No. 3.—General.

Each section would have a head, and each sub-section also have a head, specialising in the work of that sub-section.

A third method is to constitute each department with its own head, directly responsible to the General Secretary.

The committee are of opinion that the first method is the best.

We have considered the present staff of the Union in relation to the needs outlined above, and think that, with the contemplated additions as approved by the Central Board, no further heads of departments need be engaged.

These various departments might be allocated to the appropriate committees of the Union, which would be responsible to the Central Board for the proper administration of the various departments.

C.—Constitution of Distributive and Productive Societies.

We have had under consideration the question of the constitution of the distributive and productive societies, but in view of the variety of methods adopted, we find that the only practical way of dealing with the matter is to suggest that societies generally should adopt the Model General Rules published by the Co-operative Union. These rules can easily be adapted to the requirements of any society by means of a few special rules being prefixed, and there is no difficulty in obtaining registration, as the Registrar of Friendly Societies is well acquainted with their contents, and is thus able to give his certificate without undue delay.

We have examined the latest form of Model Rules published by the Union, and think they need revision in some respects. We would, therefore recommend that the Central Board should appoint a small committee to undertake this work immediately after Congress.

D.—Constitution of Educational Committees of Retail Distributive Societies.

Recommendations brought forward from the report submitted to the Swansea Congress.

GENERAL.

The committee feel that there is a great need for stimulating the committees of these societies to greater educational activity. In our opinion, these committees have not, as a whole, sufficiently risen to the task imposed upon them as educators of co-operative opinion. Their connection with the central authority is only very loose; and with a few notable exceptions very little local

initiative has been displayed. This may be due to the frequent changes in the personnel of the committees. In some cases, membership of the educational committee is looked upon merely as a stepping stone to membership of the management committee, whose members have what some consider greater responsibilities and are more highly remunerated. In other cases, there is lack of close co-operation between the education committee and the management committee; and in a few cases the relations are not sufficiently friendly. *In our opinion the educational work of a society is worthy of the best effort that can be put into it, and should claim the services of the best men and women that can be found for it.* The committee charged with the educational work should work in close co-operation with the management committee, and with the Men's and Women's Guilds, employees' associations, and other similar organisations, either through a system of representation or through frequent conferences or consultations. Much educational work could and should be done in co-operation with trade unions, trades councils, and similar working-class organisations. In large societies, the educational work should be so extensive and important as to justify the appointment of a whole-time official as secretary. Upon this matter and the constitution of education committees, recommendations are made below.

GRANTS FOR EDUCATIONAL WORK.

We regret to record the fact that many societies have recently reduced their educational grant. In some cases, this reduction seems to have resulted from dissatisfaction with the manner in which the educational grant has been expended; but there is clear evidence that the societies which are progressing fastest have not stinted wise expenditure for educational purposes. The committee reiterate their opinion that education is a necessity not a luxury, and expenditure upon it should be considered as essential as expenditure upon propaganda and advertising, and for other trade purposes. We therefore strongly urge societies not already making education grants to make them and secure their wise expenditure.

In our opinion the dependence of educational funds upon allocations from the trading surplus is unsatisfactory. It obscures the fact that co-operative education is a necessity—not a luxury or a competitor with other claimants like dividend for a share of the profits. We therefore suggest that educational grants should not be based on a proportion of profits, but based on a definite sum per member per year. The annual grant, in our opinion, should be in no case less than one shilling per member, and ought to be much more if the educational work of the movement—nationally and locally—is to be what it ought to be. Some societies already give more than this amount, and the committee welcome their action and would press other societies to follow the example.

CONSTITUTION.

The foundation principles governing the constitution and work of an educational committee should be the initiating, fostering, and developing of

educational work of a co-operative and allied character. The educational work of a society being closely connected with the success of the trading and general social activities of the society, the constitution of an educational committee should be such as will promote the closest possible relationship between the educational committee, the management committee, the guilds, and such other organisations connected with the society as are of an educational, propagandist or social nature. The employees should also be closely linked up with the educational committee and its work. In accordance with the principles stated above, we suggest that educational committees in retail distributive societies be constituted on the following lines :—

**SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION FOR EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES IN RETAIL
DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.**

Organisations or Sections Represented.	Number of Representatives.	
	In Large Societies.	In Small Societies.
Management Committee	2 persons.	1 person.
Members specially elected for educational purposes	4 „	3 persons.
Women's Guild	1 person.	1 person.
Men's Guild	1 „	1 „
Officials (Managers and Secretarial Staff)	1 „	1 „
Other Employees	1 „	1 „

Where the education committee is constituted in accordance with the foregoing suggestions, we recommend that it should also take charge of the propaganda and publicity department of the society. Detailed methods of selecting the members for the education committee can be left for societies to determine according to local circumstances.

[N.B.—It is very important in making the selection of members of the education committee that the special nature of the work of the committee be borne in mind.]

In societies with a membership of 10,000 and upwards we recommend the appointment of a special permanent education secretary (man or woman), and a special permanent secretary for publicity and propaganda, whilst for smaller societies we recommend a permanent official (man or woman) for education and propaganda jointly.

The operation of the time-limit works very disadvantageously in the case of education committees. We recommend that time-limits be abolished, and that members of such committees be elected for a minimum period of two years with eligibility for re-election. The arrangements for retiral and election may be left to local decision; but it is advisable that not more than one-half of the members retire each year.

In cases where a society's operations cover a wide area we recommend the

formation of district educational committees with local powers, working with the educational committee, and linked up with it in such a way, or ways, as may be found locally desirable.

In the case of large and fairly-large societies, where active educational work is undertaken, we recommend that quarterly meetings of members for the consideration of educational matters be arranged, distinct from the ordinary quarterly meetings for the trading business of the society. At such educational quarterly meetings a report of the educational committee should be presented for consideration; and the meeting utilised for the purpose of rousing and sustaining interest in educational work and for outlining and developing the educational policy of the society. As far as possible, the educational committees of all societies should carry out the suggestions contained in the programme issued by the Educational Department of the Co-operative Union. The education committee should meet the management committee from time to time—say, quarterly or half-yearly—for the purpose of discussing matters of common interest and securing co-ordination and harmonious working in the efforts of both committees. It is desirable, also, that the two committees should annually meet the employees in a gathering of a social character, at which the educational work of the society might be a subject of consideration. The technical training of employees might be discussed at a meeting of employees, management committee, and education committee specially convened annually for this purpose. The technical and co-operative education is far more important than has been realised by many societies, and we strongly urge management and education committees to devote their immediate attention to this matter in accordance with the suggestions of the Education Department of the Co-operative Union.

E.—Constitution of Educational Associations.

*Recommendations brought forward from the report submitted to the
Swansea Congress.*

GENERAL.

We have previously remarked that these associations have not completely fulfilled the high hopes once held of them. The machinery of their organisation is the subject of special recommendations made below. The only suggestion we have to make here in this respect is that they should bring into association with them more committees and guild branches than are at present in membership. We think the associations should make a vigorous canvass of all unattached societies' committees, branches of the guilds, and associations of employees, as well as interested individual co-operators, in order to secure their membership. Initiative, enthusiasm, and energy are essential to success; and the associations in some sections show no lack of these qualities, the inadequacy of their funds being the principal factor which restricts their operations. We are of the opinion that there is a large amount of educational zeal in the movement which has hitherto been insufficiently

enlisted for our educational work; and we recommend that individual members should be eligible for membership of the educational associations with representation on the executive committee of the association on the lines of the recommendation made below. For this purpose, members of the Educational League suggested above will be recommended as eligible for membership of the educational association of the section in which they live. We believe that two excellent results will follow if this recommendation be adopted.

In the first place, we should attract to our educational work and retain for it a large number of men and women who are now drawn off into other reform movements.

In the second place, we believe the accession of zealous and enthusiastic educationalists, who for various reasons cannot pass through the present approaches to membership of the associations, would do a great deal to maintain the initiative and vigour which these associations must possess if they are to fulfil their mission.

We strongly urge the establishment of a closer connection between each educational association and the Sectional Board of the area in which it operates. The executives of these two bodies should meet in consultation at least once each year; and the Sectional Board should be represented on the executive of the association. Upon these matters, also, recommendations are made below.

The committee also think the educational associations should come into closer touch with the local educational committees and other organisations performing educational functions in their area. Schemes for achieving this end could best be worked out by those with greater knowledge of local conditions than this committee possesses; but conferences with the committees or groups of committees in contiguous areas for the discussion of problems not usually dealt with at larger conferences might be one of the methods adopted; greater efforts might be made to stimulate class work; and united efforts in educational experiments might be made. If the educational associations rise to their full responsibilities and opportunities they may do much to relieve the Central Educational authority of much of the work it now does, thus giving the central authority opportunities for opening up new spheres of activity. It may ultimately be desirable to have a special educational organiser in each section; and we recommend this matter for future consideration.

Some suggestions in regard to the work of an educational association are contained in the Co-operative Union pamphlet "The Work of an Educational Association," and these suggestions we commend to the associations for careful consideration and adoption.

CONSTITUTION.

We recommend that the word "committees" be omitted from the name of these associations, and that they be known in future as Sectional Educational Associations.

We recommend also the following :—

BASIS OF CONSTITUTION.

Eligibility for Membership.

(1) All societies in the section, through their educational committee, where one exists, and the management committee where there is no educational committee.

(2) The sectional board of the Co-operative Union as an *ex-officio* member of the association.

(3) All branches of the guilds (men's and women's).

(4) All employees of co-operative societies through their group organisations, the employees of each society forming a group for this purpose.

(5) The National Co-operative Managers' Association.

(6) The Co-operative Secretaries' Association.

(7) Individual members of the Co-operators' Educational League resident in the section (but with only one collective vote in the election of the executive).

Executive.

From this general membership an executive of twelve members (including officers) to be elected on the following basis :—

A president.

Four persons representing societies, of whom at least three must be members of special educational committees.

One person representing the Women's Guilds.

One person representing the Mens' Guilds.

One person representing the employees.

One person representing other members of the association. With

One person representing, and appointed by, the Sectional Board (preferably the representative of the Sectional Board on the proposed Advisory Council for Educational and General Purposes) who shall pay the expenses of their representative.

With the consent of the Educational Association of any section the Educational Executive of the Co-operative Union may appoint from their number or staff an additional member of the committee, but shall pay the expenses of any person so appointed.

The association shall, in addition, complete the membership of the Executive by appointing a secretary, or secretaries, one of whom, for the purpose of securing co-ordination of effort with the Sectional Board, we recommend should be the Co-operative Union sectional secretary. Whilst the persons appointed to the executive shall be representative, as suggested above, the president and the secretary, or secretaries, may be nominated by, and shall be elected by, the whole of the members, except that the representative of the Sectional Board shall be appointed by the Sectional Board. The secretary, or secretaries, shall be entitled to vote at executive and all other meetings. The president shall be *ex-officio* chairman of the executive. The executive shall appoint from its own number a treasurer.

The members of the executive shall be elected for a period of two years, retiring members to be eligible for re-election.

The method of retirement may be left to be decided by each association for itself.

In all elections each committee, guild branch, association, or group shall have one vote.

[N.B.—The associations should be registered and become members of the Co-operative Union.]

INCOME.

The annual subscriptions shall be :—	£	s.	d.
Educational and management committees of societies, with fewer than 1,000 members	0	10	6
Ditto, with 1,000 to 5,000 members	*1	1	0
Ditto, with over 5,000 members	*2	2	0
Guild branches—under 50 members, 2s. 6d. ; over 50.....	0	5	0
Employees' associations—under 50 members, 2s. 6d. ; over 50...	0	5	0
Other associations	0	5	0

Members of the Educational League, 3d. each, remitted to the association by the Co-operators' Educational League from the subscriptions paid to the League by its members.

Such annual grants as may be allocated by the Co-operative Union through its educational executive.

EXPENSES.

The railway fares and other out-of-pocket expenses of members of the executive shall be paid from the funds of the association when they are attending conferences and executive meetings, or are engaged on deputation or other work on behalf of the association. The secretaries and treasurer shall, for the present, be honorary officials; but the association shall grant them an honorarium annually if it so desires.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Copies of the minutes of all executive and general meetings shall be forwarded to the Education Department of the Co-operative Union. A report of work done by each educational association shall also be forwarded quarterly to the Education Department of the Union.

The educational associations should maintain a close connection with the Education Department of the Co-operative Union, and for this purpose we recommend that the Educational Executive of the Union should meet the executive of each association at least once a year to discuss schemes of work; and we further recommend that the educational associations prepare

* We recommend these subscriptions in order to make the associations financially strong; but the minimum subscription should be 10s. 6d.

annually a scheme of work for the year upon which the papers of their conferences should be based.

When conditions permit, it would be helpful if a joint meeting or conference of the executives of all educational associations could be held, and this conference would be the more helpful if arranged jointly with the Educational Executive of the Co-operative Union.

NOTE.—When these recommendations, with or without amendment, are adopted, we recommend that the Education Department of the Co-operative Union draft a model code of rules for educational associations in accord with the proposals as approved.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

A.—THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

The objects sought to be attained by the recommendations and amendments set out above may be briefly summarised as follows:—

1. The widening of the objects rule of the Union, so as to give more prominence to what we are really striving for, *i.e.*, the Co-operative Commonwealth, by means of—

- (a) The propagation of co-operative principles and ideas;
- (b) The organisation of co-operative work in all its branches, whether such work be in connection with industries, trades, or business; and
- (c) The promotion of education.

2. The restriction of membership of the Union to those organisations which have the promotion of co-operative principles and ideas their first aim and object.

3. The government of the affairs of the Union on broader lines by constituting the Central Board as a real Board of Management, thus rendering unnecessary the continued existence of the United Board and Office Committee.

4. The appointment of a Finance and General Purposes Committee as an Executive of the Central Board.

5. Guarantee of suitability of candidates for the Central Board by the initiation of special qualification for service.

6. The election of members of the Central Board on a broad basis by the uniform application of the sectional method of election instead of by district representation.

7. The filling of vacancies on the Central Board by the Sectional Board concerned.

8. The greater permanency of the position of chairman of the Central Board.

9. The power of removal to be vested in the Central Board.

10. The provision of standing orders governing the meetings of the Central Board.

11. The appointment by the Central Board of a special committee to deal with the question of revised sectional boundaries.

12. The extension of the powers of appointing honorary members in order that those who have rendered valuable service to the movement may be suitably recognised.

13. The appointment of a National Co-operative Auxiliary Council for Education and General Purposes.

14. The appointment of an Educational Executive.

15. The alteration in the constitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, to provide for it being a committee of the Central Board.

16. The revision of the constitution of the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee, to provide for it being a committee of the Union, responsible to the Central Board.

17. The appointment of the Joint Propaganda Committee as a committee of the Union, representative of all the sectional boards, and the appointment of a number of organisers.

18. The appointment of a Statistical and General Publications Committee, to consist of an equal number of representatives of the Central Board and the Educational Executive.

19. The increasing of the fees paid to members of the Central Board when attending Congress, and the fees paid to members of the sectional boards.

20. The appointment of a permanent or full-time salaried Executive of the Union.

21. The closer relationship of auxiliary bodies with the Union.

22. The provision for voting at conferences by representatives of auxiliary bodies.

23. The adoption of a uniform code of rules for all district associations.

24. The holding of an annual conference by all sections and district associations.

25. The sectionalisation of Congress proceedings in such a way as to increase the efficiency of Congress and enable important questions to be more fully considered and therefore the decisions arrived at to be truly expressive of the feeling and desire of the movement as a whole.

26. The representation of the Central Board, through the section, on the Congress Reception Committee.

B.—THE ORGANISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

1. The extension of the legal department of the Union.

2. The formation of an accounting and audit department.

3. The expansion of the education department.

4. The formation of a statistics and trade information department.

5. The extension of the propaganda work of the Union.

6. The formation of a publications department, which would be responsible

for the publication of text books, books on co-operation for the general reader, pamphlets, &c.

7. The establishment of a Labour department, to give advice on Labour matters, and assist in cases of arbitration and conciliation.

8. The formation of a political department.

C.—CONSTITUTION OF DISTRIBUTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

1. The appointment of a small committee by the Central Board to revise the model general rules published by the Co-operative Union.

D.—CONSTITUTION OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

1. Greater activity on the part of educational committees of retail distributive societies, both among co-operators and other members of the working classes; more attention being paid to classes and relatively less to entertainments; and the appointment wherever possible of a full-time secretary for education.

2. The fixing of the educational grant of retail distributive societies on the basis of membership rather than on percentage of profits.

3. The constitution of educational committees of retail distributive societies on lines that will secure the representation of all sections of membership or organisations in connection with a retail distributive society, that are or ought to be interested in education.

E.—CONSTITUTION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

1. Development of the work of educational associations through the widening of membership, increase of funds, the exercise of greater initiative, and greater participation in the general educational work of the movement, assisted by more frequent conferences with, and joint work with, the central and local educational committees.

2. The adoption of a constitution for educational associations on lines that will secure a better representation of persons and organisations interested in co-operative education.

Resolution from the Enfield Highway Co-operative Society Limited—

SURVEY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Seeing that no adequate consideration has been given by the movement to the proposals of the Survey Committee, Congress directs that those parts of the report dealing with the constitution and administrative system be referred back for discussion by societies; and at the same time a committee of nine be appointed by societies immediately after Congress to draw up proposals based on (1) the democratic principle of direct election from societies of the Executive of the movement (and any other committees

desirable); (2) the adjustment of work so as to meet most effectively the demands made by new co-operative policies and developments and (3) the freedom of auxiliary bodies from official control. Further, that steps be taken to secure the issue, in convenient form, of both sets of proposals in time for full discussion by the movement before next Congress.

F.—OVERLAPPING AND AMALGAMATION.

The Survey Committee, through its Trade Sub-committee and the Constitution Sub-committee, has given earnest consideration to the overlapping which exists in the movement, and the overlapping which may arise during the next few years as a result of the natural development of existing societies. This overlapping not only represents duplication of effort, but leads to the development of an unco-operative spirit in the relationships of neighbouring societies. We, therefore, conceive it to be the duty of all societies to arrange boundaries with the societies whose territory adjoins their own, and thus remove any overlapping which may now exist and prevent any that might arise in the future. We have recommended in another part of our report that any dispute which cannot be settled between the societies concerned shall be submitted to the Co-operative Union as arbitrators, whose decision shall be final and binding. We also recommend that sectional boards, either themselves or through the district associations in their area, convene meetings of small groups of societies which may be interested in the demarcation of boundaries affecting them all, for the purpose of settling such boundaries. If this recommendation be carried out, every society in the country will know what is its own area, and can proceed with the co-operative development of that area without trespassing upon the area of other societies. In some cases, co-operative development will probably be accelerated and trading organisation rendered more efficient by the cession or exchange of branches and territory; in other cases, amalgamation of neighbouring societies may be the most practical method of eliminating the overlapping and securing greater economy and efficiency in administration; whilst in still other cases, where there may be little or no overlapping, amalgamation may still be desirable in order to promote economy and efficiency of administration. We consider, too, that federations of retail and distributive societies can in many places be formed for the purpose of undertaking businesses which societies individually are not able to undertake, or which can be more economically administered by a federation. Some of these businesses are laundries and bakeries; but others are indicated in the report of the Trade Committee. We recommend sectional boards to take into account all these phases of the problem of overlapping and dissipation of energy in arranging the programme of matters to be discussed at the meetings of societies which we have recommended should be called. In considering these problems, we suggest that the relative advantages of large and small societies referred to in the Trade Sub-committee's report should be borne in mind, so that the societies of the future may be of a size that will secure the greatest economy of administration

combined with the possibility of retaining democratic control and the interest of the individual members. Every case will require consideration on its own merits, as the conditions vary in different districts according to the density of population, the communications between the various parts of the area, and the existence of what may be called an identity of social existence. In the case of large societies it may be necessary to appoint district committees in various parts of the area for the purpose of securing local interest and the expression of the varying needs of the different districts in the area.

We have given special consideration to the case of London in considering these problems, and are of the opinion that it presents features peculiar to itself, both in regard to the size of societies in the area, the possibility and desirability of affecting amalgamation, the making of boundaries, the transfer of members from one society to another, the undertaking of joint trading enterprises, and the institution of joint propaganda effort. The problem is so big and the circumstances are so peculiar as to be known fully only to the societies in the area, for which reason we confine our recommendation to a suggestion that the societies in the London area, in conjunction with the Southern Sectional Board, should confer for the purpose of discussing the various phases of the problem with a view to securing a greater consolidation of co-operative forces in the London area. We are strongly of opinion that such a consolidation is desirable and possible, and that it would be followed by an expansion of co-operative activities which would not only enhance the prestige and usefulness of the movement in the London area, but also react upon and increase the prestige and usefulness of the movement throughout the whole country.

G.—FEDERATIONS WITHIN THE UNION.

(1) CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

After the Co-operative Union which, by its constitution, embraces every form of co-operative effort and includes societies with widely differing aims and methods, come the important Federations of Societies formed for the specific purpose of the supply of goods either by purchase in the markets of the world or by production and manufacture. These federations may be classified in accordance with their constitutions and also in accordance with their aims and methods. The largest of these in point of number of constituents and magnitude of operation are comprised of the retail societies of England and Scotland. These federations have for their object the supply to individual societies of commodities required for consumption by their members, and are called in England and Scotland Wholesale Societies, or, more familiarly, the Wholesales. There is also in Ireland a Wholesale Society differentiated by name from those of England and Scotland, being called the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, and further differentiated from them by being comprised of societies of agricultural producers. It is therefore an altogether different type of wholesale society

to those of England and Scotland. There is also another Federal organisation consisting of co-operative societies. This has for its object the development of manufacture. The societies of which it is comprised are known as co-operative productive societies. This organisation is called the Co-operative Productive Federation. In the survey of the constitution and work of the whole of these federations, the different types have been subjected to separate examination.

GENERAL.

As has been already stated, there are three wholesale organisations in the United Kingdom associated with the Co-operative Union and working in the interest of co-operators in different parts of the kingdom. They are well known as the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Scottish Wholesale Society, and the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society respectively. They were established at different times and under more or less differing circumstances. For these reasons and the further reason that the demands upon each are different in certain respects from those made upon the others, they are not only in different stages of development, but differ appreciably in their lines of development.

Thus, the Co-operative Wholesale Society's operations extend over the whole area of England and Wales, and its membership comprises some 1,200 societies, large and small, and both urban and rural, and at varying and, it might almost be said, all possible stages of progress.

The Scottish Wholesale Society is, on its distributive side at least, confined to Scotland, and the number of societies of which it is comprised is by comparison small, although they perhaps are equal to those of England in their varying degrees of development.

The Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society had its origin in circumstances widely different from those which rendered necessary the formation of the other two societies. It was established at a much more recent date, and although it shows signs of vigorous growth, it can only be at present regarded as immature in its development. These facts notwithstanding, a no less useful and successful career may be predicted for this society than has been enjoyed to such a remarkable degree by the societies established in England and Scotland.

At the time of the appointment of the Survey Committee it was hoped that members of the Co-operative Wholesale and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies' committees might have been included in that committee. As a matter of fact, representatives from the Scottish Wholesale Society were actually appointed to serve, but when it was found that the English Wholesale Society did not intend to make similar appointments these representatives were withdrawn. For reasons which are not understood, since they have never been fully announced or explained, the English Wholesale Board, after consideration and some hesitation, declined the invitation to nominate two of their number to take part in the work, at the same time

stating that it could not be seen that any good could come to the movement as a result of the survey. Regret on the part of the Survey Committee at this decision has already been expressed, and it need not be further alluded to except to say that as a consequence the conclusions which have been reached and the recommendations which are being made in respect to the present position and future development of the movement have been arrived at, and are, except in the case of the Irish Wholesale Society as hereafter explained, the outcome of the examination and observations made by the Survey Committee without the assistance of those possessing intimate interior knowledge of the workings of the Wholesale Societies. In regard to these societies, however, a set of questions upon certain important points has been submitted to the respective committees. These questions are being considered by the committees, and it is hoped that replies will be forthcoming from all. Up to the time of the drafting of the report such replies have been received only from the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society.

In respect to the origin and constitution of the Wholesale Societies, both in England and Scotland, it may here be well to reiterate the statement so often previously made, that they were designed to effect for distributive societies the same kind of economies in the purchase of commodities wholesale as the societies effect for their members in purchasing retail. By organisation for wholesale purposes the principle of collective buying was, so to speak, applied deeper down. Co-operators in their corporate capacity own and should control the Wholesales through their societies in the same way as individually they own and control their local societies. The Wholesales were in no sense intended to control or direct the Co-operative Movement. They were to be directed and controlled by it in the performance of their important but well-defined function of obtaining supplies in wholesale quantities for ultimate distribution through the retail societies to individual co-operators. The fact that the Wholesale Societies have extended their operations into the spheres of manufacture, shipping, agriculture, and finance in nowise alters the position. The true purpose of the Wholesale Societies is to serve the movement. Control and direction of it come otherwise, and must continue so to come. This is a point which is often lost sight of because it is so apt to be obscured by the vast size to which the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies have now attained and by the fact that their operations are located in particular centres, where their massive buildings and huge stocks make a strong appeal to the outward eye. But the business operations of the movement as a whole are spread all over the Empire, and it must never be forgotten that it is to the aggregation of the multitudinous small purchases of millions of more or less scattered co-operative units that the Wholesale Societies stand as giants in the marts of commerce, not only in Great Britain but in the colonies and in foreign countries beyond the seas.

Regarded from this standpoint, it is clearly to be realised that as

collecting, manufacturing, producing, and financing agencies the growth and expansion of the Wholesale Societies are governed and limited by the growth and development of the movement generally and the continued need by societies of the services which the wholesale organisations may be able to render.

It is often, and perhaps too commonly, assumed in press articles and platform addresses that since as an organisation the Wholesale Society is centralised and in it certain functions are concentrated that it is to be expected to do, and is capable of doing, everything which the societies constituting the membership may require. The general acceptance and adoption of such a conclusion would be fatal to progress and detrimental to the interests of the Wholesale Societies as democratic organisations. Fortunately, the every-day experiences of local societies, and especially of the larger ones, supply the right kind of corrective to what might otherwise become a widespread and serious error.

The life, energy, and driving power of the Co-operative Movement cannot be permanently directed to a centre or confined within a central organisation. Life has to be lived and energy expended where the land is being utilised for the purposes of the people. Hence, although during the lifetime of the present generation of co-operators the growth and expansion of the Wholesale organisations has been phenomenal, rightly regarded they are simply the outcome of the greater growth and development of the movement as a whole. Whether the test be trade, manufacture, agriculture, or finance the result is the same. The aggregated operations and undertakings of the local societies show the greater power of expansion. When the societies in populous centres realise this power more thoroughly than they have done hitherto and regard themselves not simply as businesses operating in their respective communities, but as organisations acting on behalf of and representing such communities, their development will be immensely quickened and the disparity in the rate of growth as between them and the Wholesale organisations will become greater. The possibilities of development in respect to means of transport, the manufacture of locally consumed commodities, the building of houses, the cultivation of land as market gardens, the raising of cattle, pigs, and poultry and the production of milk are only beginning to dawn upon those responsible for the direction and control of distributive societies. Proposals to embark in such undertakings must, it would seem, take a prominent place in the after-war programme of large numbers of urban societies, and following this there will of necessity be a corresponding development of the Wholesale Societies and a much needed modification of their internal structures to enable them to meet the new strain they will then be called upon to bear. This consideration leads naturally to the examination of their present structure.

STRUCTURE.

Formed, as they were, by retail societies to supply the needs of such societies in the same way as retail societies supply the needs of their individual

members, it was natural that the unit of membership should be a society and that the membership should embrace as far as possible all those societies doing, or desirous of doing, business with them.

On the financial side, it was equally to be expected that societies desirous of securing the advantages arising from the joint purchase of goods in large quantities should subscribe the capital required for that purpose, just as the members of retail societies are expected, and do, supply the capital necessary to carry on their local activities. There is this difference, however, in regard to the supply of the capital for the Wholesale Society's purpose, that the contribution is in accordance with the membership constituting the retail societies is indeed proportionate thereto, and therefore in slight measure only in accordance with the ability of any given society to subscribe capital.

No analogy between the organisation of the Wholesale Societies and the retail societies exists geographically.

The retail societies consist of members, for the most part, living together in a limited area and in close touch with one another. The members of the Wholesale Societies are scattered all over their respective countries, and those in the extreme parts are very remote from one another. In respect to Scotland the resulting disadvantages are not so great as in England and Wales, where they have been fairly realised and some attempt made to obviate them by the division of the whole area to be served into three parts corresponding roughly to a northern division, a southern division, and an intermediate division. It is a matter for serious consideration, however, as to whether the time has not arrived for this sub-division to be carried further, and as to whether increased efficiency and advantages would not result therefrom.

Viewing the matter from another standpoint, it has been found of the utmost advantage for the English and Scottish societies to combine for specific purposes, and the occasions for such united action are likely to arise more frequently in the future than they have in the past. The certainty of the recurrence of such occasions has become so strong, that the proposal has already been seriously made that the two societies should become one. If the general trend of things be accepted as a guide it is safe to assume that this proposal will ultimately be adopted, and that such adoption will take place as soon as the Scottish societies realise that mutual absorption need not result in the deadening of local interest, or in choking the springs of local initiative or a diminution in local control.

In the latter respects, all that has been said with regard to the English and Scottish societies applies equally to the Irish. There are sufficient and unanswerable reasons why the three societies while remaining three should become one, local and racial difficulties, feelings, and aspirations notwithstanding.

The foregoing statement involves a seeming contradiction, but what it is desired to express is that there should be a real organic connection

between the three societies, and not a merely casual and more or less temporary one, for some particular purpose or purposes, and, further, that there should be fusion of interests in such a way that local responsibility would be increased rather than diminished, as too frequently happens when amalgamation of organisations of this character takes place.

Granted that such a union as that now suggested might be effected, much needed devolution and decentralisation would not be long in coming. It is now pretty generally admitted that the Wholesale structure, while having become solidified to a gratifying and remarkable degree, has, in the process, assumed a rigidity which, in the case of the English society at least has hindered and is likely to further hinder what may be termed lateral expansion.

ACTIVITIES.

During the time which has elapsed since the foundation of the two older and larger Wholesale organisations, the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Scottish Wholesale Society, there has been, as previously remarked, an astonishing development in the business of distribution as such. Concurrently there have been no less remarkable developments in the field of production. As year has succeeded year, mills, factories, and workshops have been acquired or erected to such an extent that a really appreciable proportion of the commodities delivered to the retail societies are now manufactured in the works of the Wholesale Societies.

In later years there have been further notable developments in the way of the acquisition of land, and this not only in the home countries but in the colonies. Quite recently such purchases have been supplemented by the purchase of coal mines. Further, similar acquisitions are, it is generally understood, in contemplation. These of necessity will compel the purchase sooner or later of ships for purposes of transport and a development of shipping activities must follow. Out of all these will arise the necessity for bolder adventure in the realm of finance. Thus the movement is faced with the important question as to whether the existing structure of the organisation and the present methods of control and administration are those best adapted to attain the end, which, from the beginning, it has set itself to achieve, viz., a Democratic and Co-operative Commonwealth. The answer to this important question, as far as the Survey Committee is concerned, is not affirmative. The directions in which modification appears to them to be necessary will be indicated hereafter. Meantime it might be of advantage to consider present administrative methods more fully.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.

The Wholesale Societies, being societies of societies, they have quite naturally adopted forms of administration which are familiar to the members of the societies of which they are comprised.

The chief features of such administration are the Management Committee and the quarterly meeting.

The Management Committee of the Wholesale Societies, as of retail societies, is a representative body elected by the members. The quarterly meeting is a meeting of delegates from the retail societies in membership held to criticise and receive or reject the report of the committee on the business of the society during the quarter just ended. Time and experience have shown the necessity for the elaboration of both these administrative methods. Thus, management of the Wholesale Societies by a spare-time committee such as are the great majority, if not the whole, of the retail society committees, soon became impracticable. It was found necessary to appoint full-time committees. These were compensated more or less adequately for their services, and became in consequence paid officials.

Following this, in the case of the English society, as its ramifications extended it was seen to be desirable that there should be a splitting-up of the whole area covered by its operations into divisions and that each member of the committee should be associated with one particular division. This arrangement not only fixes responsibility with greater definiteness, but results in a great saving of time and expense in travel from place to place. Even so, it is a matter of common knowledge that a large portion of the time of the members of the committee is spent in railway trains and the distances travelled by them in a year are enormous. It is therefore becoming evident that a further sub-division is imminent and that the policy of localisation must be carried further. Other large concerns, and notably certain banks, having branches in extended areas have found it of advantage to appoint local resident directors. At the present rate of progress and with the further acquisition of landed estates it will, it is thought, be essential for the English society to adopt this or a similar expedient.

Such a course would not be inconsistent, or interfere in any way, with the suggested amalgamation of the three Wholesale organisations.

Turning to the subject of control by the members over the policy and business of the Wholesales, it is found in England that as with the Management Committee so with the quarterly meeting, extension and modification of method have been necessary. Consequently, instead of one meeting held at a given centre there are a number of local meetings held on the same day, and a general meeting at the centre the following week. Such an arrangement has many advantages. It brings bodies of people together to consider and discuss their own business in the various localities, who could not possibly be accommodated as a whole at the centre, even did not the difficulties of distance and expense, in the majority of instances, prevent them getting there. It also brings the committee into contact with representatives of societies in a way that would not otherwise be possible. Yet the arrangement cannot be said to be in all respects satisfactory; something more than has yet been done is essential. By an alteration made comparatively recently the complete position of the society is only placed before the members twice yearly. The meetings at which the business is considered are held at the week-end, in the afternoon of Saturday to be precise. The

delegates meet under the inconveniences which railway travelling subjects them at that part of the week. It is found, therefore, that the meetings are rarely prolonged over two hours and a half or three hours. Five or six hours per year—or double that time if regard is had to the *interim* meetings, or quadruple if the general meetings are regarded as additional to the local—can scarcely be regarded as adequate for the serious discussion by its proprietors of the affairs of a highly organised business with a turnover of approximately one million pounds weekly. To continue such an arrangement as this is not to deal with a great democratically owned institution seriously. No less time than two days should be devoted every half year at the general meeting to the discussion of the report and balance sheet and the transactions of general business, if the societies constituting the Wholesale Society are to retain any grip of its business and the power to direct and control its policy.

Some early and radical change would also appear to be necessary with regard to the power of voting at these meetings. The voting power of societies is regulated by the amount of shares taken up by them ; the number of such shares is in turn regulated by the number of members constituting the society. This is a fair and democratic arrangement. But on matters coming to the vote at a meeting, the voting strength of each society is in accordance with the number of delegates it has sent to the meeting. When it is borne in mind that meetings are largely held at fixed centres, and that some societies are remote from such centres and because of expense are not largely represented, while nearer societies may send to the meeting the full number of delegates to which they may be entitled, it will be immediately seen that distant societies are under a permanent disability in expressing their views and duly recording them by the vote as compared with societies operating in the vicinity of the meeting place. This disability could, as far as actual voting is concerned, be immediately lessened by allowing the delegates present at a meeting to exercise the full voting power of the society they represented.

At this point it is only fair to say that the difficulties and anomalies in regard to voting and places of meeting have had consideration by the committee who, in order to obviate them, have made proposals for enabling matters of policy and questions upon which there is divergence of opinion to be brought before the notice of societies near and remote by referendum. It would appear, however, that these proposals are not regarded as adequate by the societies comprising the federation since they, after discussion, decided to defer the whole matter and resume its further consideration at some period following the cessation of the war.

EMPLOYEES.

An important feature in the administration of the Wholesale Societies is the relationship existing between the societies and their employees which now number many thousands. The amount of information available in

respect to these relationships is small and from the circumstances already detailed under which this report has been made but little can be added. In one sense the service in either of these great institutions of the people is public service or something very nearly approaching thereto, and the Survey Committee record their opinion that the methods and terms of engagement of employees, and especially those of young people, should become as widely known and as easily accessible to co-operators as are similar particulars of conditions of engagement in the public service to the public generally—Co-operative parents, by the tens of thousands, have children fully capable of filling positions in the co-operative service, and would, it is certain, welcome every opportunity of making honourable application on behalf of and submitting the capacity of their children to fair tests with a view to filling such positions as fall vacant from time to time or require filling because of some new departmental or general development. An equitably arranged system of entry into Co-operative Wholesale service would, it is felt, be welcomed by the movement and the time has arrived in the opinion of the Survey Committee for such a system to be devised.

THE WHOLESALE SOCIETY AND PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

At a time when the work of the Survey Committee had been considerably advanced the decision was made by Congress that a stage in the progress of the movement had been reached when it was necessary to secure direct representation in Parliament. The effect of that decision, although not yet capable of being fully estimated, is certain to be far-reaching. Equally certain is it also that it will be important to the future of organisations of such magnitude as the two Wholesale Societies in Great Britain. Already, as a result of representations made to the Prime Minister by the Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Union in respect to the part played by the whole movement in the national economy, members of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Committee have been appointed to responsible positions. Other members of the committees of both the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies have been appointed by the Parliamentary Committee of the Union to represent the movement on the Consumers' Council. These facts and the acceptance of the positions by the members of the committee point to possible developments in respect to public service which must sooner or later be recognised and provided for in the rules and constitutions of the two organisations. Clearly the opportunity for rendering such service should under no circumstances be missed but availed of to the full, and equally clearly those engaged in such service on behalf of the Co-operative Movement cannot perform nor should they be expected to perform their former function of directing the business of their society. This matter is regarded by the Survey Committee as one of great importance and as one which is likely to be of increasing importance in the period of reconstruction following the end of the war and afterwards.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO "CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION"
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

With the object of eliciting the opinions of the respective committees of the Wholesale Societies regarding the questions relative to those societies which had been discussed at considerable length by the members of the Survey Committee, a series of questions were drawn up by the Survey Committee and submitted to each Wholesale Committee. These questions were accompanied by a request that they might be considered by the committees and an expression of the willingness of the Survey Committee to take part in a joint discussion of the questions at a time and place suitable to the general convenience. An appreciable time has elapsed since the submission was made but up to the time of the preparation of this report the only response that had been received was from the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, by whom an interview was offered. The offer was accepted and the result of the interview, in so far as matters relating to "constitution and administration" are concerned, is given hereafter. Meanwhile the actual questions affecting "constitution and administration" are subjoined.

1. Is the present method of managing the Co-operative Wholesale Society's business by the committee as efficient as it might be, having regard to the extent of the business ramifications and the distances to be travelled and could not the present arrangement be supplemented and to some extent superseded by the establishment of permanent local committees, acting under the general direction of a central body?

2. Is it not thought that with the extension by the Co-operative Wholesale Society in land ownership and control of raw materials from overseas, some re-arrangement of the system adopted by the Co-operative Wholesale Society in regard to sub-committees is necessary, firstly, with the object of securing that an expert knowledge of a particular branch may be obtained by the sub-committee concerned, and, secondly, that such sub-committee should be held responsible for the successful carrying out of the particular branch over which it had control?

3. Is it considered that under present arrangements the discussion of the Wholesale Society's business at the quarterly meetings is adequate and helpful, and is it not necessary that there should be a considerable extension, in point of time, of the meetings at which the report and balance sheet are discussed by the members?

4. Having regard to the great number of employees now engaged by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, would it not be in the interests of the institution to widen the scope of selection by making widely known the conditions and prospects of employment, and in giving preference to those who demonstrate their fitness for the position they seek?

5. In view of prospective co-operative developments, and the extended interest which must be taken by the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the movement generally in national affairs, is any amendment of the constitution of the Co-operative Wholesale Society considered necessary and desirable?

REPLIES OF THE IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

It has previously been stated that no communication or reply in respect to these questions has been received except from the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society. In an interview between representatives of the Irish Wholesale Committee and of the Survey Committee the views of the former were expressed as follows:—

The points raised in Questions 1 and 2 hardly affects the Irish Agricultural Society which as yet is only in a comparatively small way of business.

With regard to Question 3. The meetings of shareholders had formerly been held half-yearly. This arrangement was found inconvenient to the members, who were principally farmers, and meetings are now held once a year only. The attendance at the meetings was fairly satisfactory but not as good as it should be. There was adequate time for the discussion of the business of the society but the meetings did not last longer than one hour and a half.

To Question 4, respecting the selection of employees, the answer is that the society had asked a member of the staff to prepare an examination scheme so as to make possible a wider range of selection of candidates for employment.

In regard to Question 5, it was thought that the society will be averse to entering into politics, and consequently there is no prospect of the consideration of any proposal to alter the constitution for this purpose. The rules of the society already permit joint working with other societies.

(2)—THE CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE FEDERATION.

GENERAL.

This organisation, as its title in some measure implies, is a federation of those co-operative societies known as productive societies—or societies of producers—which have for their object the production of some specific commodity or commodities, the members of such societies being in the main workers in that particular branch of industry in which the society itself is engaged and regularly employed by the society.

FOUNDATION AND OBJECTS.

The Federation was founded in 1882, and is registered as a society under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. The principal object of its founders was to obtain the capital necessary for the development of the federated societies. Other objects were the furthering of combined action on the part of the federated societies, both in the purchase of the materials required in the industrial processes carried on by them, and in the disposal of their completed products. To these objects has been added propaganda having for its purpose the formation of opinion generally, and within the co-operative movement particularly, of such a character as would be favourable to the establishment in industry of "Societies of Producers," and would

result in the unprejudiced trial and use of the commodities the societies produced.

The Federation also audits accounts for the federated societies, and watches the interests of the societies in such matters as the assessing of the Excess Profits Duty. In this latter connection it has successfully specialised, with the result that the societies have greatly benefited through arrangements made between the Federation and the Inland Revenue authorities.

The Federation acts generally in the capacity of adviser to the co-partnership productive movement on the various questions that arise from time to time.

CONSTITUTION AND METHODS.

The Co-operative Productive Federation is in membership with the Co-operative Union Limited and the Labour Co-partnership Association.

At its inception membership of the Federation comprised individuals as well as societies. Amongst the former were included the names of such enthusiasts in the cause of co-operation as Edward Vansittart Neale, E. O. Greening, Joseph Greenwood, John Hartley, George Newall, and J. Lambert. The present rules preclude the admission of individuals as members, and provide that only such societies and companies shall be admitted as by their constitution allow the workers employed by them to become members and to participate in respect to their wages in the profits of the undertaking.

In other respects, the constitution of the Federation and the methods of its management follow the general lines of societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. Thus, the number of shares to be held by a society in membership is determined, in regard to their minimum, by the number of its own members. The shares of the Federation are of the nominal value of £1, but all shares are transferable. Power is taken to accept loans from members and others up to, but not exceeding, the sum of twenty thousand pounds. Management is by a committee elected by the members, and all members of the committee must be members of one or other of the societies comprising the Federation. The position of secretary is permanent, and filled, not by election, but by appointment on the part of the committee of management.

By a special arrangement, members of the Federation agree to pay, for the purposes of propaganda, an annual subscription in accordance with the amount of trade done by each member. The fund so obtained is devoted to propaganda, whilst a further subscription of 1 per cent of the federated societies' annual profits is applied to general purposes of the Federation.

REALISATION OF OBJECTS.

The first object for which the Federation was established has been realised. In respect to the supply of capital required by the societies in membership to successfully conduct their operations, all demands can be met. These demands, it is frankly admitted by the Federation, do not fall so heavily upon it as they conceivably might have done, the supply from other

sources having been of an exceedingly generous character. Sympathetically disposed individuals in the various localities in which the societies operate have directly provided considerable amounts. The retail societies purchasing the products of the productive societies have very generally subscribed, in the form of shares, amounts forming a much larger sum in the aggregate than that subscribed by individuals. In respect to capital, as also in respect to trade, the co-operative movement as a whole has realised that the productive societies have claims upon it, and have responded to such claims in a way which, all things considered, can only be regarded as satisfactory.

So far as the joint purchase of materials is concerned, comparatively little progress has yet been made by the Federation as such, although in certain instances societies whose products are similar, or approximately similar, in character, have combined to purchase goods needed in their productive operations. Such purchases, largely of an experimental nature, are it is understood still being made, and the results of these may be expected to lead to further developments in the future.

In respect to the associated disposal of completed products, considerable progress has been made. In the year 1906 the Federation instituted a Joint Invoicing Department, by means of which the customers of the productive societies were enabled to enter in their accounts the name of the Federation instead of the names of a number of societies whose goods they were buying. The advantages of such an arrangement were so obvious to all the parties concerned that the department rapidly developed and is now responsible for a joint invoicing business of upwards of £250,000 annually. The logical outcome of such success is the establishment of a joint travelling agency. This, although a more difficult undertaking than that of joint invoicing, should prove of equal, if not greater, advantage to both the buying and selling societies.

In recent years, and concurrently with the development of international co-operation, the possibilities of opening up foreign trade have been discussed by the Federation. But for the war it is probable such discussion would ere now have produced tangible results. As it is, progress in the matter is delayed and more cannot be expected to be made until the cessation of hostilities.

In the matter of propaganda the activities of the Federation are wide-spread, and all that could reasonably be expected therefrom has been achieved. Lectures, conferences, and meetings are continuously arranged, and an encouraging amount of interest is taken in the subjects brought under notice. On the side of literature there is also a well sustained output, and for the "Federation Year Book" there is an annually increasing demand. Congress and special exhibitions have proved important aids in drawing attention to the quality and variety of the goods produced by the societies, and these have been supplemented by a scheme of joint advertising of such goods.

The most important development ever undertaken by the Federation in respect to propaganda was that of the appointment in 1910 of a special agent.

whose duty it was to give the whole of his time to this branch of the Federation's work. This appointment made it possible for the aims and objects of the Federation to be personally represented to management and education committees, men's and women's guilds, the various associations of co-operative employees, and members generally throughout the movement. Although this particular activity has been temporarily suspended owing to the war, the appointment of this special agent has been amply justified by results.

FUTURE NEEDS AND POSSIBILITIES.

FINANCE.

In common with most democratically constituted organisations concerned, wholly or partially, with finance, a great need is felt by the Co-operative Productive Federation of a Central Financial Institution, popularly owned, wide in its sympathies, broad in its outlook, tolerant in its administration, devoid of prejudice. That institution is undoubtedly in the making; in it the Co-operative Wholesale Banking Department is already more than a corner-stone. Of it the Co-operative Productive Federation could advantageously become a branch. Acting as such it could focus upon itself the whole of the operations of what has been designated the productive wing of the co-operative movement, and so exert an important influence in the work of effecting the much desired co-ordination of the parts of which our great movement is composed, preparatory to the extension of its operations in the wide, and by it but little explored, realms of mining, transport, and agriculture.

TRADE AND PROPAGANDA.

It is doubtful whether the majority of the societies comprised in the Federation fully realise the advantages to be derived from associated action and enterprise. That such should be the case it is not difficult to understand. Of necessity, the energies of a group of workers forming a productive society are concentrated upon their own society. To its welfare all other considerations are subordinated. Time and experience alone will enable them to take that broader outlook in which the local society shall appear as a constituent and co-ordinated part of a developing whole. Hence it is to be strongly recommended that the fullest consideration should be given to the undoubted possibilities yet latent in the joint buying of materials, the joint selling of commodities, and joint propaganda and educational work. If trade with the co-operators of other countries is to become other than an eminently desirable thing all the possibilities mentioned must first be realised to the utmost.

RELATIONS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND THE MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE.

The relations of the Federation with the other organisations comprising the co-operative movement have been distinctly helpful as far as the Federa-

tion itself is concerned. Had this not been the case, its existence would have continued with difficulty, whilst its sustained progress would have been impossible. Even the conflict which has been waged around it, and the Co-operative Wholesale Society, has been of advantage in that it has made necessary a clear definition of the aims of the Productive Federation, which definition has in its turn enabled the co-operative movement as a whole to perceive that the Co-operative Commonwealth is only to be established by the application of co-operative principles in a multitude of ways, and not by the absorption or annihilation by one particular institution of all other co-operative enterprises. Just what is specifically needed in respect to these two differing Federations—the Co-operative Productive Federation and the Wholesale Societies—is a kind of court of reference, to which all difficulties arising between them could be brought and so constituted that its recommendations would command general respect. It may be that the general Co-operative Council elsewhere referred to would furnish the elements of which such a court should be comprised.

Preliminary to this, a discussion of the points of difference and difficulty, as they now appear, might be arranged. That such a discussion should take place, the Productive Federation is understood to be more than anxious. No circumstances more favourable than the present could be conceived of for an approach to be made towards each other by both organisations. The wisdom of all possible efforts being made towards an understanding is indisputable, and it is believed that nothing would be more welcomed by the movement generally were such an understanding to be reached. More than ever is it necessary that a united front should be presented by the movement to the hostile forces which surround it on every hand.

THE PLACE OF THE FEDERATION IN THE UNION.

As a member of the Co-operative Union, and by virtue of such membership, the Co-operative Productive Federation has been given representation on the Exhibition Committee, the Defence Committee, and the present General Survey Committee. The question arises as to whether such representation should be extended and a place given to it on any newly constituted Parliamentary Committee. There is much to be urged in favour of such representation. Legislation in the future is more likely to be concerned with methods of production and distribution of commodities than in the past. The Federation holds a place in the field of production which is unique. This has been admitted by the Inland Revenue authorities, who have thought well that special representations on account of its component societies should be made in a similar manner to those made in regard to the retail and wholesale distributive sections of the movement.

Finally, there remains the question of education. The development of the societies forming the Federation has probably been retarded more by lack of education on the part of its members than has any other group of co-operative societies. The need for greater educational facilities is now being

realised by them, and a distinct effort to obtain such facilities is at present being made. It is greatly to be hoped that, apart from the general educational schemes of the movement, the greatest possible encouragement on the part of those responsible will be given to all the attempts now being made, or that may in the future be made, to broaden the outlook of the co-operative producer. No matter what the form in which our co-operative movement may be eventually cast, he is absolutely essential. His energy will always be needed; his faculties demand and will repay cultivation to the utmost extent possible.

H.—THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

The International Co-operative Alliance is an organisation comprising individuals, corporations, co-operative societies, associations, federations, and unions of co-operative societies, and societies having for their object the development of co-operation.

The test for the admission of an individual to the Alliance is that he shall be distinguished by the service he has rendered to co-operation. The test for admission of societies is that they shall be either co-operative societies at work or societies engaged in the propagation of co-operative principles. In these particulars there are no distinctions of race or nationality. All peoples are alike, equal.

The objects of the Alliance are fully set out in the articles of association, as follows:—

- (a) The ascertaining and propaganda of co-operative principles and methods.
- (b) The promotion of co-operation in all countries.
- (c) The keeping up of friendly relations between the members of the Alliance.
- (d) The collection and unification of co-operative statistics.
- (e) The provision of information and the encouragement of studies concerning co-operation.
- (f) The promotion of trading relations between the co-operative organisations of the various countries.

Subject to the decisions of the International Congress, held every three years, the affairs of the Alliance are controlled by a central committee, to which the Co-operative Union of Great Britain nominates for election seven representatives. Under existing arrangements, five of these seven representatives form the Executive body of the Alliance, it having been determined by the representatives of all countries that it would be best for the Executive to be comprised exclusively of representatives of the same nationality. Doubtless the time will arrive when it will be considered preferable to have an Executive of mixed nationality, and for this body to hold its meetings in different countries by rotation.

As between the members of the Alliance and on behalf of the co-operators of different countries the committees of the unions and federations in the

respective countries are the connecting and responsible bodies. In these respects the committees referred to have laid upon them the obligations and are charged with the powers which follow :—

(a) They propose to the Congress the representatives for the Central Committee.

(b) They nominate substitutes for members of the Central Committee who have retired before the expiry of their term of office or who are prevented from attending a meeting.

(c) They act as channels of communication between the Alliance and their members in the land in question, and see to the fulfilment of their duties.

(d) They certify the delegates of Congress representing their organisation.

(e) They nominate the correspondents for the journal of the Alliance.

(f) They appoint the necessary committees to arrange for the Congress and make suggestions to the Central Committee as to matters to be dealt with.

(g) They furnish a yearly report on their work and on the general situation of co-operation in the country.

The Executive of the Alliance, being wholly British, the office of the Alliance is in London, and the position of secretary of the Alliance is held by a British co-operator.

The established means of communication between members of the Alliance in the different countries is the *International Co-operative Bulletin*. This is a monthly periodical, edited and published in this country, and containing particulars of co-operative progress throughout the world and of events of international co-operative importance which happen from time to time.

It is greatly to be regretted that war conditions have caused the suspension of relationship and courtesies between so many countries. Co-operators in all lands doubtless will see to it that they are all strengthened and renewed as early as possible after the war has come to an end.

In some respects, and with regard to certain countries, such renewal will doubtless be very difficult. It will be none the less necessary, if co-operation is to play that part in world affairs in the future that, in the opinion of those who have faith in its power and efficacy, it is destined to play.

Unfortunately, perhaps, for the co-operative movement in its international aspect, such relationships as had been established between co-operators in different countries did not include to any appreciable extent trading relationships—the exchange of co-operatively produced commodities. Community of sentiment had not developed into community of interest. When it has so developed it will become more difficult than it has on this occasion proved to urge the common people of all countries to regard one another as enemies and adopt measures and prepare the means for mutual destruction. It has been truly said that “co-operation is life.”

From what has been already stated, it will have been inferred that the unions in some countries are themselves the members of the Alliance and

represent and pay the subscriptions of the individual societies of which they may be composed. In this country individual societies are also members of the Alliance, and to the number of about four hundred. Their subscriptions, however, are collected by the Union and paid over to the Alliance in one sum. By undertaking this duty on behalf of British societies, the Co-operative Union in this country makes acknowledgment of its responsibilities in respect to stimulating interest in international co-operation on the part of British co-operators.

Returning to the consideration of the work of the International Co-operative Alliance, the opinion may be confidently expressed that this work will be greatly extended in the not very distant future. International co-operation is an expression of faith in the possibility of a "League of Nations." Without such a faith there would seem to be no well-founded belief in human progress. In laying the foundation of the society of the future, co-operation has taken, and is fulfilling, its part. It is not a little thing that under its auspices and at its National and International Congresses people otherwise regarding one another as aliens come together as brothers, and, as has been well said at one of such gatherings, as citizens of a State which has no frontiers.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

In view of present circumstances and of the necessarily inadequate treatment of the subject of international co-operation in this report, it would be invidious, if not presumptuous, to present a series of recommendations. Those, however, which are made and presented hereunder are made in a truly sympathetic spirit, and with an ardent belief that the future holds much in its hands for international co-operation.

The recommendations of this Survey Committee are—

1. That the Co-operative Union, through its Education and Publications Committee, should make a serious attempt to arouse interest on the part of committees and officials of societies and of co-operators throughout the country in the subject of international co-operation, in order that its extreme importance may be fully realised, and a great accession of membership may accrue to the International Co-operative Alliance.

2. That the International Co-operative Alliance, in conjunction with the agencies engaged in co-operative production in this country, be urged to consider the possibilities of international co-operative trade and take practical steps to open up channels through which exchanges of co-operatively produced commodities may be made by the people of the different nations comprising the Alliance.

W. GREGORY, Chairman.

W. T. CHARTER.

J. POLLITT.

W. H. WATKINS.

T. HORROCKS, Secretary.

} Survey
Constitution
Sub-Committee.

TRADE (PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION) SUB-COMMITTEE.

Recommendations in regard to RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

In the Interim Report presented by the Survey Committee to the Lancaster Congress, the growth of the Retail Distributive Co-operative Movement since 1881 was reviewed. Since the presentation of that report the committee have continued their investigations and consideration of this section of co-operative activities, and now present their conclusions, suggestions, and recommendations. These suggestions, for convenience of treatment and reference, are grouped under headings corresponding to those employed in the Interim Report presented to the Lancaster Congress. Certain sections of this part of the committee's report referring to Wholesale Co-operation, Co-operative Production, Agricultural Co-operation, International Co-operation, Labour, and Welfare Work are incomplete, and will therefore be presented later in accordance with the introduction to the general report.

MEMBERSHIP.

In the report of the committee presented to the Lancaster Congress, statistics were given showing the strength of co-operative membership in various parts of the United Kingdom, and the relation of this co-operative membership to the population in various counties and countries. Tables showing the proportion of co-operative membership to population in the different counties of Scotland are given as an appendix to this report, and supplement those for England and Wales previously supplied and now repeated for purposes of comparison. The Survey Committee are of the opinion that the membership is in no district as complete as it might be, or should be; and they would especially direct the attention of the movement to the extremely low membership in some parts of the United Kingdom.

In considering means whereby the membership of the retail distributive movement might be increased, the committee have been impressed with—

- (1) The necessity of bringing home to co-operators and non-co-operators the possibilities of the movement as a power for improving the welfare of all classes, and particularly the working classes;
- (2) The importance of enlisting the interest of a larger number of people in the social aspirations of the movement;
- (3) The desirability of widening co-operative activities for the purpose of touching co-operative members at more points of their lives; and
- (4) The desirability of making nominal members into conscious and active co-operators.

The committee have also been impressed with the waste of effort due to overlapping and the growth of an unco-operative spirit resulting from the same cause. They have been further conscious of the difficulties experienced by small societies because they are small, and large societies because they are large. It is with these circumstances in mind that the following suggestions have been formulated.

(1) INCREASING MEMBERSHIP.

(a) *Appointment of Canvassers.*

In order to increase co-operative membership in districts where the movement is already established, the committee strongly urge the appointment, by societies, of canvassers. In districts where large societies operate, more than one whole-time canvasser may be required; and, in the case of small societies, the canvassers might be part-time workers. Such part-time canvassers might be persons already employed by the society, or they might be members of the committee or other persons appointed to an honorary or paid post for canvassing duties. The canvassers, whether in small or large societies, should be persons well instructed in the principles of co-operation, familiar with the organisation and ideals of the co-operative movement, and with a full knowledge of the local society, in order that they can present the case for co-operation effectively to non-members and secure their allegiance to the movement.

The committee are of the opinion that these canvassers should be trained for their work in order that the best results may be achieved; and they therefore recommend Congress to instruct the Central Board to arrange training classes for canvassers in various centres, so that societies which decide to appoint canvassers can secure an adequate supply of men and women suitably prepared for canvassing duties.

(b) *Appointment of Organisers.*

In districts where the movement is not yet firmly established, or not established at all, the committee recommend the Central Board to appoint special organisers for the purpose of developing interest in co-operation. These organisers should be supported by adequate advertising and by the holding of meetings of a suitable character made attractive in the many ways that are now available. For the service of the canvassers appointed by societies and of the organisers appointed by the Central Board, suitable literature should be prepared where it does not already exist. Some of this literature should be suitable for house-to-house distribution, and should be so distributed, whilst literature of a suitable character should also be available for distribution and sale at any meetings which may be held. The canvassers and organisers should make a special point of visiting meetings of trade-union branches, and should seek permission to address meetings of societies, such as literary societies and improvement classes, where speakers on social subjects are usually welcome.

(c) *Advertising.*

In addition to the advertising already suggested, the committee are of the opinion that every few years there should be instituted a national co-operative advertising scheme, in the preparation and working out of which all sections of the movement should be invited to co-operate. In this advertising and propaganda scheme, both national and local newspapers should be employed, the posting stations should be used, out-door meetings should be arranged, cinematograph displays of co-operative films should be given, and exhibitions of co-operative productions should be organised. The cost of this national campaign might appear heavy at first; but, considering the size of the movement and the advantages to be gained by such a campaign, £100,000, or even £200,000, would be a comparatively small amount to be expended. It is obviously the work of the Co-operative Union to direct this National Advertising Propaganda Campaign; but the assistance of the wholesale societies, the productive societies, and the retail distributive societies should be sought. The Survey Committee note with satisfaction that one such national scheme was approved by the Swansea Congress. They suggest that such a campaign should be repeated from time to time, and a special propaganda department organised at the Union's headquarters to direct these campaigns and other propaganda work. In another section of their report the committee recommend the organisation of a Propaganda Department at the Union's headquarters.

(2) INCREASING LOYALTY OF PRESENT MEMBERS.

To increase the loyalty of present members is obviously one of the duties of co-operative education; and the Survey Committee have already made recommendations in regard to education in their report to the Swansea Congress. They would take this opportunity, however, of making a strong recommendation that those engaged in the trading activities of the movement should realise that active co-operation with co-operative educational committees is essential if a loyal membership is to be secured. The Survey Committee would again emphasise the importance of extending co-operative education to a study of social questions and the relation of the co-operative movement thereto, as well as to a study of the problems associated with co-operative trade and organisation. In this work, the heartiest co-operation between the trading and educational committees of local societies is essential; and the Survey Committee would therefore again emphasise the importance of securing this co-operation as suggested in their report to the Swansea Congress.

Outside the direct work of educational organisations in increasing loyalty and trade, there are, however, some points to which attention may be drawn. In the first place, trading committees might make more use of the facilities provided at shopping centres to distribute co-operative literature and the sale of co-operative publications as a means of strengthening co-operative opinion and loyalty. The canvassers already suggested might be partly employed in waiting upon those members of the society whose interest was apparently

weakening and whose purchases were falling. They would then be able to discover causes of this weakening of loyalty, and, by reporting to the committee of their society, enable the committee to remedy any defects which were responsible for it. An increase in business efficiency would also tend to strengthen loyalty and increase membership; and upon this point suggestions are made in a later part of the report.

As a means of reaching members at more points of their lives than at present, the committee would repeat the suggestion made in their report to the Swansea Congress, viz., that educational work should be extended both amongst juniors and adults, and that classes in a larger number of subjects be arranged for the purpose of reaching members and retaining their interest. Men's guilds and women's guilds should be encouraged, and not only should accommodation be provided by committees for the meetings of the guilds and other co-operative organisations associated with the society, but the committee members themselves should take a personal interest in the work of these organisations. The formation of social and recreational clubs of various kinds connected with the society should also be encouraged. Some societies have literary societies, others debating societies, others rambling clubs and sports clubs of various kinds; and organisations of this nature should be encouraged as a means of providing for members, opportunities of linking themselves up more closely with their society.

A revival of interest in co-operation is likely to be stimulated and sustained by the opening of rooms for social and recreative purposes. The political parties and other organisations have their clubs, which serve useful purposes; and good would undoubtedly accrue to the movement if local societies also arranged social clubs for their members. Concerts for young and old should be provided, not as a substitute for class work, as happens in some societies, but as part of the social activities of the society. Though public libraries have now to a great extent relieved co-operative societies from the necessity of providing these establishments, there still seems to be the need for small select libraries of economic and co-operative literature; and the use of such libraries should be fostered as a means of attaching the members more closely to their society and increasing their fitness for the fulfilling of their obligations to it.

Where no suitable local facilities exist, every local society should provide a supply of sick-room appliances for the service of its members; and, in other ways, that will be revealed to enterprising committees, should seek to make the society increasingly useful to its members. These are merely some suggestions of the things that might be done to cause co-operation to enter more fully into the lives of the members of the movement and others, and secure their closer connection with the local society and the wider movement.

(3) OVERLAPPING.

Overlapping may exist in the following forms :—

(a) Shops of competing societies may exist side by side and serve the same people.

(b) Two or more societies in adjoining districts, without overlapping of shops, may deliver goods within one another's area.

In regard to overlapping of the first kind, two solutions may be offered.

(1) Amalgamation; (2) transfer of shops and the defining of areas of the two societies. The decision as to which of these two methods is the most suitable must depend upon local circumstances. In any case, goodwill between the two societies is required, and also willingness to accept the friendly intervention of the Co-operative Union as conciliator and arbitrator in cases of difference of opinion. In another section of our report we make recommendations in regard to the rules of the Co-operative Union and cases of overlapping; and the relation of the Union to societies that do not accept its decision in regard to cases of overlapping referred to it.

The second kind of overlapping can best be met by arranging boundaries and securing loyalty to boundary agreements, with an undertaking to accept the friendly arbitration of the Co-operative Union in cases of dispute. It is important for the various committees of the Co-operative Union charged with the settlement of boundary disputes to create the conciliatory spirit between societies, for personal considerations rather than mechanical difficulties of administration are often the principal stumbling block. It frequently happens that overlapping and competition between neighbouring societies is due to competition by dividend; and the Survey Committee are of the opinion that excessive dividends, utilised for the purpose of attracting members from another society, ought to be discouraged. To avoid the evils of overlapping of deliveries, the Survey Committee recommend neighbouring societies to agree to a boundary line beyond which they will not deliver, or accept new members. Where, as frequently happens, members go outside the area of their own society and patronise another one because of superior trade facilities offered by the more distant society, and where this is due to a larger society having more departments than can be provided by the society nearest to the member, the committee suggest that arrangements might be made for members of the smaller society to buy from the larger society with a ticket provided by their own society. Where the desire to patronise the more distant society is due to superior business administration and better service, the raising of the business efficiency of the less efficient society is the obvious remedy; but this is a reform and improvement for the members of that society to secure rather than the Survey Committee.

(4) DIFFICULTIES OF SMALL SOCIETIES AND LARGE SOCIETIES.

The difficulties experienced by small societies are chiefly those connected with the fewness of departments and the small scale of operations, preventing the attainment of economy of management and that variety and high-class service which a large society can provide. One remedy for this is for small societies to amalgamate where this is practicable, or enter into relations with some neighbouring large society for the purpose of enabling the members of the small society to obtain from the larger one such things as the larger society can provide and the smaller one cannot. As the smaller society

increases its membership and can increase its facilities, the necessity for the assistance of the larger society will become less, but it may meet the needs of the members of the small society for a long time. There are cases where a small society is a member of a neighbouring larger society, and this facilitates the purchasing of goods from the larger society by members of the smaller society, and the practice might be extended with advantage.

It is the opinion of the committee that the co-operative spirit and loyalty are usually stronger in the smaller than in the larger societies, and they attach great importance to these advantages of small societies and consider that the advantages of co-operation should not be considered merely in terms of trade and profits. It is a notorious fact, too, that the interest of members, as evidenced by their attendance at monthly or quarterly meetings, is weaker in the large societies than in the small ones. For the purpose of increasing this interest an extension of the educational and social activities of the larger societies is an urgent necessity; and where local guilds can be established or social clubs formed they offer means of increasing district interest in the operations of the society. District committees' and district members' meetings can also be recommended as a means of providing opportunities for fostering the interest of members in large societies.

It is suspected that in some societies the growth of membership and trade has been so great that the methods of management, which were suitable when the society was small, are no longer able to secure the most efficient administration. The Survey Committee therefore suggest that conferences of representatives of a few of the large societies be arranged with a view to investigating the methods most suitable for organising large societies, and also for the purpose of discussing the changes that have taken place in business administration during recent years in order to secure such improvements as will enable the advantages of large-scale operations to be secured without the disadvantages. The committee recommend the Co-operative Union to convene such conferences which might well be organised in conjunction with the Union's Trade Information Bureau. The committee also recommend the development of research work calculated to throw light upon the problems of large-scale operations.

In this connection, the committee are of the opinion that too much work is at the present time expected of the managers of most societies. In their opinion, the work of a large society requires the appointment of a general manager without departmental responsibilities. He should be a man of wide outlook and experience, with knowledge of finance and business organisation, able to act as the executive officer of the committee and to advise them on the wider questions of business policy. His work and that of the committee should be clearly distinguished, the committee devoting themselves to questions of general policy and giving to the manager fairly wide powers, so that he may exercise initiative as well as control. He should certainly keep the committee well informed as to his plans and work; but he should have considerable freedom, the absence of which at the present time is stifling

initiative and preventing our societies from reaching their highest success. Too much detail work is expected from the manager at present; and he is frequently overworked, so that he has neither the freshness of mind nor the width of outlook which managers of competing concerns can cultivate because of their more suitable conditions. The Survey Committee are of the opinion, also, that, speaking generally, the salaries of managers are inadequate having regard to the work and responsibilities which managers have to undertake; and they recommend consultation between the Co-operative Union and the National Co-operative Managers' Association and the Co-operative Secretaries' Association with a view to the preparation of a list of salaries to which the official approval of Congress could be given. The Survey Committee are further of the opinion that it would tend to increase the efficiency of business management if managers were given greater opportunities of making visits to centres at home and abroad for the purpose of observing and studying methods of management and getting new ideas. The committee feel that the wider outlook and mental stimulus which managers would derive from such visits would react upon the management of co-operative societies in general and amply repay the societies which were enterprising enough to adopt the suggestion now made. One society some years ago did send its manager to America on a tour of inspection, and testimony is available of the excellent results of this visit. Prior to the war, the United Co-operative Baking Society of Glasgow arranged for visits of selected employees to various industrial centres where there were special objects of interest to those concerned with improving the welfare of the worker and the raising of business efficiency, and the adoption of this method of "education by impression" is considered to have produced excellent results.

In consonance with their recommendations, as presented to the Swansea Congress, the Survey Committee would again emphasise the importance of providing adequate facilities for the training of managers, secretaries, and the managerial and secretarial staffs as a means of promoting business efficiency; and this training should not only be in the routine work of a manager or secretary, but also in the broader aspects of business organisation and administration.

If a conference of representatives of a few societies working under somewhat similar conditions, such as suggested above is arranged, the better organisation of co-operative societies, details of the cost of administering various departments, and the desirability of adopting various changes could well be discussed with a view to securing an improvement in business efficiency. There should also be held annually, during Congress week or at some other convenient time of the year, a special conference or congress to discuss trade and business matters of a technical nature. The possibility of adopting the best features of scientific management should also be considered.

CAPITAL.

The committee, in their report submitted to the Lancaster Congress, gave statistics showing the amount and distribution of capital holding in retail

distributive societies. They are now able to supplement the information then given by tables (see Appendix B) showing the amount of transferable share capital, the amount of withdrawable share capital, and the nature of the loan capital held at the end of 1916. The committee, also, drew attention to the fact that there is in the movement a considerable amount of capital which is not yet employed co-operatively. They think that these sums should be more co-operatively employed, and the amount of capital considerably increased. They view with regret the apathy which exists in some societies with regard to the accumulation of capital, for they feel that if the movement is to realise its objects fully it can do so by only becoming the acceptor of larger amounts of capital from the members of the movement. For the purpose of increasing capital the Survey Committee make the following suggestions :—

(1) That societies should remove all restrictions at present imposed by rules preventing them from taking the £200 permitted by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

(2) That the movement should press for the removal of the £200 limit upon share holding now imposed by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

(3) That societies should revise their rules which fix differential rates of interest, causing the rate to vary according to the amount the member has invested or spent. They recommend that one rate of interest be paid for all share capital deposited by a member, irrespective of the amount deposited by him or the amount of his purchases, the rate of interest being adjusted for the purpose of attracting capital. If, for the time being, the society has more capital than it can utilise in its own undertakings this surplus should be passed forward to the central institutions of the co-operative movement; and the rate of interest paid to members should be such as will enable the society to invest its surplus funds with the Co-operative Wholesale Society without any loss to the retail society.

(4) That societies should invite from their members deposits on loan account to the full extent permitted by rule and so frame their rules that increased amounts of loan capital can be taken when required. The committee believe that it is possible for the movement to increase its capital considerably by increasing its loan capital.

(5) That steps be taken to encourage members to deposit more capital with their societies than they do at present. In this connection, the committee would draw attention to the large sums of money collected annually for holiday clubs by regular weekly contributions. Not only might societies organise such clubs; but they might adopt the same method of collecting share and loan capital. They might also appoint collectors to call upon members weekly to collect contributions to share and loan accounts.

(6) That more capital be raised by means of the development of the insurance business. This is a question affecting the movement as a

whole rather than retail distributive societies alone, but the Survey Committee take this opportunity of emphasising its importance, especially as the retail societies may play an important part in developing the insurance activities of the movement.

The committee further suggest that societies should develop the banks for small savings. The amount of deposits in the small savings banks of co-operative societies is infinitesimal compared with the amount that might be secured if this business were developed. The committee think that an additional £8,000,000 to £10,000,000 of capital might be secured. The committee further suggest that steps be taken to secure the raising, or removal, of the £20 limit now imposed upon small-savings banks by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

The committee further suggest that reserve funds should be increased. They suggest that the *minimum* of the reserve fund of a society should be 20 per cent of the share and loan capital; and not only should the reserve fund be increased by yearly allocations, but interest on the amount of the reserve fund should be added to such funds. Reserve funds are established, primarily, to provide a surplus of assets over liabilities to meet unexpected calls or realisation; but they are also collectively-owned capital; and the bigger the reserve funds the less need there is for securing capital from members and others. If societies increased their reserve funds sufficiently, they would be able to work with a smaller proportion of borrowed capital, and by thus saving interest charges reduce their working expenses and their prices. This would enable societies to develop their business considerably and meet competition more effectively. For this reason, also, we therefore recommend an increase of reserve funds.

As was pointed out in the committee's Interim Report to the Lancaster Congress, many members of societies hold only a very small amount of share capital. This, in the opinion of the committee, is a weakness. The committee, therefore, suggest that societies should insist upon their members holding the minimum amount prescribed by rule; and this minimum should be fixed in relation to the amount per member required for carrying on the ordinary business of the society and for investment in the federal societies. They are of the opinion that societies have been insufficiently insistent upon members complying with the rule in regard to the minimum holding of share capital, and recommend that the dividend, or part of the dividend, should, in future, be retained on account of share capital until the member holds the minimum prescribed by rule. The committee further suggest that members should be encouraged to leave their interest and dividend with the society, even when they have more than the required minimum of capital to their credit.

The capital would be economised if the members' debts for goods were reduced; and the Survey Committee urge societies to stop the giving of credit. It is expensive to the societies, unfair to the members who pay cash, and harmful to the members who make a practice of taking credit. The committee suggest that where credit is at present given, and until such times

as the giving of credit is stopped, greater care should be taken not to give credit beyond three-fourths the amount of share capital.

With regard to the employment of the capital in the possession of societies, the committee would remind Congress, the committees of societies, and co-operators in general, that capital which is not directly used in co-operative trade is directly, or indirectly, used against the movement. The committee therefore urge societies to examine the various suggestions made in this report and consider local requirements and opportunities of trade development with a view to extending the employment of members' capital in opening new distributive departments, and in increasing their productive activities. The Survey Committee feel that with adequate enterprise on the part of local societies a much larger proportion of capital deposited by members with their societies could be employed by the societies themselves. With the development of the productive activities of the Wholesale Societies and other federal co-operative societies, these societies, also, are requiring, and will continue to require, additional capital; and for this reason retail societies should deposit with the Wholesale Societies as much of their members' surplus capital and of the society's surplus capital as can be obtained. Where, for the time being, no further outlet of capital can be found through co-operative channels the investments of the movement should preferably be in municipal or national loans or some semi-public undertakings such as railways. These investments the committee consider can be better made by an institution like a central investment institution than by local societies.

The Survey Committee submit for the consideration of the movement the desirability of forming an investment society, which might take from societies such surplus capital as the Wholesale Societies were not requiring for their trade operations. They are moved to make this suggestion by a consideration of the fact that a federal society specialising in the business of investment would probably be able to secure better results for the members than the banking department of an institution with wide business ramifications of its own. The business of banking and of investment, though apparently closely related in the outside world, are not so closely related in the co-operative movement.

The Survey Committee make the further suggestion that the business of co-operative banking should be entrusted to a special co-operative banking society. In their opinion, the business of banking is so distinct from that of manufacturing and general trading as to merit the establishment of a special society whose sole work would be the development of co-operative banking. The wholesale societies, retail societies, productive societies, agricultural societies, housing societies, trade unions, and individual co-operators would open accounts with this co-operative bank, and through it would conduct their banking business. With the enlarged amount of trade that could be obtained by securing the co-operation of other organisations, in addition to industrial co-operative societies, the committee are of the opinion that the opening of branch banks in all large centres and many smaller ones would be stimulated and lead to a great development of co-operative banking.

TRADE.

MORE MEMBERS AND MORE TRADE PER MEMBER.

A review of the statistics submitted to the Lancaster Congress by the Survey Committee, and the supplementary tables given in Appendix C of this report, reveals the two-fold nature of the problem of increasing retail trade. The first is the necessity of increasing retail trade by increasing membership, and the second is the necessity of raising the level of sales per member, especially in those districts where the sales per member are below the general average. Dealing with the second part of the subject first, the committee recommend that Sectional Boards make a special investigation of the sales per member in the various societies and districts in their own area, consulting the societies with a view to steps being taken to raise the sales per member.

The Survey Committee are of the opinion that the following causes of the low sales per member will be found operative:—

(1) Low wages of the district or the direct provision of produce by individual co-operators for their own needs.

(2) Open membership.

(3) Lack of loyalty due to insufficient appreciation of the objects and possibilities of co-operation.

(4) Insufficient trading departments.

(5) Insufficient supervision of members' trade by societies' committees.

(6) Inefficient management, expressing itself either in unduly high prices or in failure to give good service to the members.

Over the first cause, societies have little control. Where wages are low, the co-operator cannot spend at the store as freely as the co-operator in districts where wages are high. In agricultural districts, where co-operators grow potatoes and other produce for themselves, the purchases per member will be less than in districts where it is customary to buy such produce from shops.

Open membership may lead to the average purchases per member appearing low when a society with open membership is compared with a society in which restricted membership is the rule. The real purchases per family may be approximately the same in both cases.

Where lack of loyalty, due to inadequate appreciation of the objects and possibilities of co-operation, is the cause of low sales per member, the remedy lies in more intensive propaganda and educational work; and where the purchases per member are low because of the fewness of departments, the remedy lies in greater enterprise and the opening of more departments. Upon this matter further comment is made below. The committee recommend that separate departmental accounts be always kept, and that the average sales per member in each department be also ascertained each quarter.

In the past, it has not been customary to make any inquiry into the trade of individual members; but the Survey Committee, in accordance with the

views they have already expressed, believe it would be advantageous for a society to investigate the amount of purchases of individual members and instruct its canvassers to call upon those members whose purchases were low or were falling.

Where the sales per member are low owing to inefficient management, the remedy is to improve the management; and upon this subject the committee have already made suggestions.

The committee are of the opinion that whilst high dividends tend to keep up the sales per member they probably cause the total sales of the society to be less than they might be, as they keep out some possible members and cause the members to select for purchasing at their society only some of the goods which they need. They will, therefore, suggest in a later part of their report that prices be not more than current local prices, and that the dividend be restricted to a figure not exceeding 2s. in the £.

The increase of trade to be obtained by securing additional members is obvious; and this emphasises the need for the adoption of the suggestions given in a previous paragraph regarding the securing of additional members. The trade of the societies can be much increased by the opening of additional departments. The inquiries of the Survey Committee have led them to discover the wide disparity in the activities of various societies. Some have a large number of departments, whilst other societies of equal size have but a small number and have not utilised their opportunities for increasing their trading activities. A table is given in Appendix D which records the variety of trading activities of retail societies. It has not been possible, unfortunately, to record the number of shops engaged in each branch of trade. The Survey Committee urge the Sectional Boards to bring together the societies in their area in small groups with a view to investigations being made as to the possibility of all societies in their area increasing the number of their departments. The "Co-operative Directory" contains the details requisite to the making of a suitable comparison. Societies are also urged to recognise the value of enterprising advertising for securing more members, to appoint canvassers as already suggested in this report, and to establish a propaganda department with a special secretary as recommended by this committee in its report to the Swansea Congress.

It frequently happens that a society has not a membership sufficient to support a large number of departments. Where this is the case, and the society is in the neighbourhood of a society that has many departments, it seems possible for the smaller society to arrange with the larger one for its members to have purchasing tickets enabling them to buy from the larger society until the smaller society has a membership sufficiently large enough to support a department, or departments, under its own control. Such a scheme already works advantageously in some districts; and the principle can also be applied with advantage in the sale of bread and milk, and also in the organising of a laundry. In other cases, neighbouring societies may with advantage federate for the purpose of organising a department or departments which none of them could organise successfully by itself. This question

of departments is also discussed in that part of our report referring to large and small societies.

As a means of developing the trade of the movement, we would suggest that the attention of societies be drawn to the desirability of undertaking the milk trade, laundries, restaurants, cafés, fried-fish shops, fish shops, green-grocery departments, tobacco shops, sweet shops, newspaper and book shops, stationery shops, toy shops, furniture-removing departments, undertaking departments, hairdressing departments, window-cleaning departments, &c. Federations of local societies might undertake wagon building, harness making, the making of laundry and bakery fittings, scales, requisites for shop furnishing, as well as the manufacture of mineral waters.

In connection with the cafés the committee consider that these should be made as attractive as possible, and in the large towns music and other attractions should be provided as in cafés under other management. The opening of fried-fish shops may not seem attractive, because of the type of shop now to be found in many of our towns; but in the opinion of the committee these shops meet a need and the co-operative movement might do good work in raising the standard of such shops. A further reason for developing these shops is that they buy a class of fish which does not find an outlet through the trade of the ordinary fresh fishshops, and if the movement intends to secure any control over the fish catching and fish distributing trades it is essential it should have an outlet for all classes of fish. The necessity for securing such a control is growing, for in some centres it is already the case that something like a monopoly exists, and firms which own or control fishing fleets also control the marketing and distribution of the fish brought to land. It is therefore important that co-operators should develop a market for all classes of fish and afterwards pass to the organising of a fishing fleet.

In connection with many of the departments we have recommended, *e.g.*, café, the hours of opening will necessarily be different from those of ordinary departments. We think the convenience of members and customers should be consulted in fixing the times of opening and closing, and are of the opinion that with proper organisation this can be done without requiring more than a reasonable number of hours' labour per day from any employee.

We are also of the opinion that a considerable trade might be developed by means of penny-in-the-slot automatic delivery machines at railway stations and in other suitable places; and we recommend that a special society be formed, if necessary, to undertake this business. We consider that such machines would also be a valuable advertisement for the movement and enable us to reach many members of the community whom we are not now reaching through the usual channels.

DIFFERENT GRADES OF SHOPS.

In considering the question of extending co-operative trade co-operators must recognise the different classes of the community whose demands have given rise to the establishment of the different grades of shops which exist

in our larger towns. This recognition of different classes of customers seems to be necessary, because there are many members of the community who desire a little extra service and a rather different class of goods from those usually provided in co-operative establishments. There seems to be no sufficient reason why experiments should not be made, or why co-operative societies should not have different classes of shops with different prices or dividends, if necessary, for the purpose of meeting the needs of different classes of the community. All classes will have to be catered for, if the movement seeks to embrace in its membership the whole of the community or those who desire their needs met through co-operative organisations. The principle of purveying different qualities of goods is already adopted in the selling of margarine as well as butter, frozen meat as well as fresh meat, and different qualities of tea, &c. Similarly, societies should stock their various branches with goods, and classes of goods, suitable to the class of population living in the neighbourhood. Even in the area served by the same society, different districts reveal different needs, and these must be considered and met if the society's trade is to be adequately developed.

CO-OPERATION AND THE POOR.

Another point in connection with trade is the extension of co-operation to the poor. It is regrettable that we possess very little evidence regarding the extent to which co-operative activities do actually reach the very poor or fail to reach them, and very little explanation of the reasons why co-operation does not apparently flourish in the very poorest districts in our large towns, though the fact that the population is often a floating one is no doubt one of the reasons. In the absence of reliable data it is impossible to be dogmatic upon the question. We feel, however, that the present position is a reproach to the movement and calls for earnest consideration and active endeavour. We, therefore, suggest that experiments be made to establish shops in the very poorest districts of three or four of our largest towns or cities.

We recommend that one experiment be made in the Manchester district, where conditions are such as to enable the experiment to be made with best chances of success. The district is the home of a large number of co-operators and the most important centre of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, whilst the district is one in which the sense of civic responsibility and the ability to render social service are alike developed. We recommend the establishment in Manchester of a special society formed with the goodwill of the societies in the district, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the Co-operative Union, and enlisting the co-operation of the branches of the Women's Guild and the Men's Guild in the district. For the purpose of establishing the society we recommend the creation of a fund, part to be raised in cash and the remainder in the form of a guarantee to be called upon if necessary. Business might then be commenced in one or two districts suitable for the experiment. A capable young manager should be engaged, and he should be guaranteed another position if the experiment did not succeed. The societies mentioned above should have authority to elect the

committee of management, with power to co-opt purchasing members. Canvassing for members should be undertaken, and the organisation should be so framed that these members might ultimately become the controllers of the society.

To prevent overlapping, the neighbouring societies should have some share in supervision and their interests should be protected throughout. Trade in groceries would be the main business, and the stock would be specially selected for the neighbourhood. Prices should be fixed low, with little dividend, for the dividend will probably offer little attraction to the type of member to be secured. A coal yard might be opened, where the people of the district could purchase small quantities of coal at a cheap rate. In connection with the society, a social institute should be established where, with other attractions, cinematograph displays might be provided and educational work undertaken. In this, and other ways, attempts should be made to secure the interest of those living in the neighbourhood.

The undertaking of this educational and social work seems to be necessary in attacking this problem, for much of the difficulty of reaching the poor appears to spring from their lack of appreciation of the possibilities of joint effort and the working for distant rather than immediate advantages. The society's premises should be an educational settlement just as much as a trading centre.

A guarantee fund of £1,000 would not be a big one for the movement to establish, and, even if this amount were lost in the course of two or three years, it would, in the opinion of the committee, be money well spent. It would, at any rate, give us greater knowledge of the nature and dimensions of the problem than we now possess; and we should be placed in a stronger position for dealing with it. Given the right type of manager and committee there seems no reason why the experiment should not succeed; and, if successful, it would be a splendid advertisement for the movement. It would be an object lesson for other districts and would be a training ground for managers and for workers likely to be engaged by societies undertaking an enterprise of a similar nature in other centres.

EMPORIUMS AND DEPARTMENTAL STORES.

Another method by which co-operative trade might be increased is by the opening in our large towns and cities of large emporiums or departmental stores. The movement has been slowly working towards this during recent years, but is still far behind private traders in this respect. Such departmental stores might be owned and controlled by a federation of societies in the districts, and their members might have purchasing tickets enabling them to be credited with dividend from their own society. In connection with the emporium there should be a large restaurant and all the accessories which would assist in increasing trade.

THE COMPETITION OF MULTIPLE SHOPS.

There can be no doubt that the competition of multiple shops is growing. These shops are of two classes. One class deals in one article only, *e.g.*,

hats or boots, or a few articles, *e.g.*, tea, sugar, and butter; and another class deals in provisions or clothing in general. By reason of the magnitude of their trade they can buy economically, and by the duplication of branches on similar lines in regard to shop equipment, organisation, &c., further economies are secured. These businesses are usually well organised. It is said, for example, that the managing director of some of these firms knows by Monday noon each week what profit has been made at each shop during the previous week. The standardising of fittings at each shop makes possible the cheaper production of these fittings, which are frequently made by the firm's own works department. The uniformity of external appearance is of a considerable advertising value, for the appearance is usually distinctive, and when a person removes from one town to another the very familiarity with the external appearance is an inducement to commence trade with the branch in the new town, and the possibility of securing the same goods is another. The profits made by each branch are not necessarily large, but, collectively, they are considerable; and many of the multiple shops pay very large dividends upon the capital which is small in relation to turnover.

To make possible the more successful competition of co-operative societies with the multiple shops it seems desirable for societies to copy some of the methods of the multiple shops. There might be, for example, greater uniformity of shop fronts and internal fixtures, so that co-operators and non-co-operators would recognise a co-operative shop at sight; and there might be some one distinct mark on all packages, wrappers, labels, and, where suitable, on the goods themselves, which would indicate goods of co-operative origin. Such a mark would become known and have a distinct advertising value.

As a further means of meeting the competition of multiple shops we suggest the opening in suitable centres of shops selling only one or a few commodities as may be desirable, the goods being sold without dividend if necessary. The results of these experiments should be carefully recorded with a view to considering the advisability of extending our operations on similar lines. This departure from the normal method of trading is justified, in the opinion of the committee, if it is the best or only way of meeting the competition of the multiple shops. The Survey Committee, keeping in view the fact that the co-operative control of industry necessitates an increase of production and the extension of co-operative employment, look upon the development of retail trade as of vital importance; retail trade is the base of the pyramid upon which other co-operative achievements rest, and no effort must be spared for bringing an increasing proportion of the retail trade of the country under co-operative control.

A number of firms, some with single shops and others with a chain of shops, now adopt the practice of giving a rebate or dividend on purchases quarterly as a counter-attraction to the dividend of the co-operative society in the district. These shops have nothing in common with co-operation, but appeal to a certain class who think more of dividend than co-operative principles. We have no reason to think that any well-managed co-operative society has much to fear from this competition; but we would take this

opportunity of once more emphasising the importance of securing the loyalty of our members through the cultivation of their faith in co-operation as a social force. The owners of the shops to which we have referred are seeking their own profit and not social reconstruction for the welfare of the community. We must lose no opportunity of showing our members and others that social reconstruction is our object, and trade one of our implements.

Besides the methods already suggested for meeting the competition of the multiple shops, advertising is important as also is the improvement of business efficiency. Upon these matters the committee have already made recommendations.

PROFITS AND DIVIDEND.

Our Interim Report, as presented to the Lancaster Congress, gives fairly full information about the present position of the movement in regard to profits and dividend. Our inquiries upon this part of our reference have, so far, led to the following general conclusions:—

(1) That capital is principally accumulated by dividends and interest being allowed to lie with societies.

(2) That the maintenance of an unduly high dividend tends to restrict our trading activities by—

(a) Discouraging the opening of departments in which the conditions are such as to prevent the payment of high dividends if the prices are the same as those of outside traders;

(b) Tending to keep out of our societies some sections of the community who either are unable to wait until the dividend is paid or are not able to recognise the fact that co-operative prices with dividends deducted are lower than the prices of competitive traders.

[NOTE.—The extent to which poorer members of the community are excluded by the practice of paying dividends has probably been exaggerated in some quarters.]

(3) Low dividends are not necessarily the result of low prices, but are frequently due to unavoidably high expenses or to inefficient management.

(4) There is a tendency for profits and dividends to fall, and this tendency has been accentuated during the period of the war.

(5) There is comparatively little collective use of profits, the principal forms being educational expenditure, maintenance of news-rooms, collective life assurance, and occasionally the provision of assistance in cases of sickness.

FIXED DIVIDENDS, GENERAL DIVIDENDS, AND DEPARTMENTAL DIVIDENDS.

As a result of our investigation we have come to the conclusion that it is not desirable to have fixed dividends. We think, however, that the policy of the movement should be one for societies to sell goods at the same prices as outside traders or a little below them in those districts where the co-

operative movement does not fix prices, and where societies, because of their volume of trade, determine local prices they should fix those prices as low as possible, and to yield a dividend of not more than 2s. in the £.

A gradual reduction of dividends to this level would, the committee believe, enable societies to undertake departments which, at the present time, they do not establish because such departments would not yield the general rate of dividend which the societies are paying. To meet the case where societies hesitate to open a new department because the department will not pay the average dividend of the society, the committee recommend the payment of different departmental dividends, and where the departments are numerous these departments might be grouped according to the rate of dividend they can pay. The application of this principle to different departmental dividends must, however, depend upon local circumstances. In some districts, members would rather have a general dividend for all departments, though this is lower than could be paid by some departments if their earnings were separately recorded. The necessity for different departmental dividends is greatest in those societies where the dividend is highest, and where the opening of departments has been hindered by the unwillingness of members to accept a lower general dividend. The difficulty might apparently be met in such cases by a lowering of the general dividend; but where the conditions are not favourable to the lowering of the dividend sufficiently to enable the opening of departments earning only low dividends, it is recommended that different departmental dividends be paid in order to secure the establishment of the departments. It has been urged against the payment of different departmental dividends that the practice leads to disloyalty, the members not supporting the low-dividend departments. We do not think that this argument receives much support from facts.

ABOLITION OF DIVIDEND.

We have considered suggestions for the complete abolition of the dividend, and welcome the experiments which are being made on this basis. These experiments the committee would like to see increased, with a view to the acquisition of experience and the testing and recording of results; but they are of the opinion that at the present time such a step would not be wise (though it may prove ultimately to be so), and they make certain suggestions on this point below.

Their reason for not advocating this step, at present, is that the process of educating members to adopt a different system must necessarily be a slow one. The abolition of dividend would undoubtedly permit such a reduction of prices to be effected as would enable the movement to sell at prices much below those of competing traders, and this would probably bring back to membership those who left a society because of the abolition of the dividend. The control of our societies, however, rests ultimately in the hands of the individual members, who are not yet sufficiently prepared to adopt such a drastic change in co-operative policy.

A further reason for not adopting such an extreme policy, at present, is

that the effect upon the capital of the movement could not be estimated. Whilst so much of the capital of the movement is accumulated by members allowing their dividends to remain in the society, it would be foolish to endanger the capital resources of the movement by a change which might injuriously affect the accumulation of capital. At the present time, the inertia of the members causes many of them to leave their dividends in the society rather than withdraw them; but if the movement depended upon the capital deposited by the members the inertia would work the other way and the indifferent members would probably fail to bring along sufficient capital to provide what the society and its federal connections need. We, therefore, recommend the adoption of the policy already suggested, viz., the charging of local prices, or a little less, where the society is not sufficiently powerful to dominate local prices; and in those cases where the society is sufficiently strong enough to decide what the local prices shall be, these prices should be as low as possible, and to secure the society a sufficient amount of capital. These objects would be secured, we believe, by restricting the dividends to a rate not exceeding 2s. in the £ on purchases. At the same time, societies should encourage their members to deposit more capital, so that if dividends are reduced or abolished the capital resources of the movement may be adequate to the movement's needs.

THE COLLECTIVE USE OF PROFITS.

The committee are of the opinion that the movement might go much farther than it has done in the past in extending the collective use of profits. The growth of collective life assurance indicates some of the possibilities of this step, and we strongly urge the development of this form of assurance and also recommend the desirability of formulating some scheme of pensions for co-operators based upon the purchases of members of co-operative societies during the twenty years prior to their reaching the age at which pensions commence. This age, we suggest, might be 60 years, and the scheme might be operated by the Co-operative Insurance Society in such a way that a member transferring membership from one society to another during the twenty years prior to his becoming eligible for pension would be able to retain his rights to a pension if the societies of which he had been a member had all been participants in the pension assurance scheme. These pensions, we suggest, should be based upon the average annual purchases, and might be payable partly in goods and partly in cash. It is not possible without actuarial investigation to give the basis upon which such a scheme could be worked, but the committee are convinced that the adoption of such a scheme is quite within the range of possibility and would serve a useful purpose. There exists in Scotland a Co-operative Veterans' Association, whose funds are maintained by subscriptions from societies and individuals. From the funds, grants are made to aged co-operators in need of financial assistance. The pensions scheme would place such work as this on a wider basis.

The committee are further of the opinion that something might be done in

the way of granting pensions or superannuation allowance to employees, and this need might be met by the formulation of a suitable scheme which would be based upon wages. This matter will be dealt with more fully in that part of our report which refers to labour.

Other forms of collective use of profits might take the form of assistance to members in case of sickness, accident, or distress, and be supplementary to any provision made by the State. Apart from their value to individual co-operators in a time of need, such schemes would, we believe, secure members and increase loyalty.

Many societies now support the various co-operative convalescent homes and funds that have been established in various parts of the United Kingdom, and assist their members who desire to take advantage of these facilities during a time of sickness. The use of profits for such purposes is one we heartily commend; and upon the convalescent homes and holiday homes we shall submit suggestions in our report next year.

There are also great possibilities of catering for the needs of members by the collective use of profits, in providing facilities for recreations of various kinds.

SUPPLEMENTARY SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(Principally referring to the Trade of the Movement).

MAIL ORDER BUSINESS.

One of the ways in which the trade of the movement could be increased is by the undertaking of what is generally known as the "mail-order" business. This form of enterprise has grown considerably during recent years. It is very popular in the United States, where one firm alone has 3,000,000 customers upon its books. Information regarding trade of this kind in this country comes to light from time to time, and shows that there are considerable possibilities even in this country. A Manchester trader in a comparatively small way of business in this line recently disclosed the fact that in four years he had secured sufficient trade to provide 60,000 transactions a year with an annual turnover of £20,000 to £30,000. What could the co-operative movement not do with its membership of 3½ millions? This business might be controlled by a special society formed for the purpose with its headquarters in Manchester, where it would have access to the wide resources of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. It would issue catalogues and advertisements and would undoubtedly tap many customers for trade which is not now passing through the co-operative movement. Thus, in districts where societies are small and have but a limited number of departments the members of that society would be able to obtain from co-operative sources many of the articles they need; and even in other districts co-operators would be able to obtain articles for which the local demand was not sufficient to justify the local society's stocking the goods. It is believed that such a

society could sell at the same price as, or a little less than, other firms and secure a considerable trade which is now being lost to the movement.

HOSTELS.

Another form of activity not unconnected with trade is the establishment of hostels in our large towns. The changes that have taken place in industry and commerce during recent years have increased the number of persons engaged in business in our large towns whose homes are in some town somewhat distant and they have to live in lodgings. The difficulty of securing suitable lodgings increases almost every year, and there seems no reason why the co-operative movement should not take the initiative and establish hostels in the large towns. Each hostel might be run as a co-operative society of which the residents were members, and of which also the local co-operative society was a member. Though the amount of trade derived from such hostels may seem small, the establishment of the hostel would be a real public service; and the hostels might form centres of co-operative education and influence. If the movement took the initiative in establishing such hostels it would provide a valuable lesson in the advantages of co-operation. The trade itself would not be insignificant when we remember the equipping and furnishing of the hostels and the maintenance of the equipment as well as the provision of the food required from week to week. It might also be possible in conjunction with such hostels to organise a chain of restaurants in our larger towns.

BOOKSELLING.

Another suggestion for increasing the trade of the movement was made in the report upon literature to the Swansea Congress last year. It is for the establishment of a national book selling society, with branches in our larger towns. These branches would undertake the ordinary book selling business as now conducted by private traders, but conduct the trade on co-operative lines and make a special feature of the sale of co-operative books and magazines. Where the local society was enterprising enough to open a department for the sale of literature there would be no need for the National Book Selling Society to act. In connection with these book-selling branches, or departments, the importance of engaging in the regular trade of the news-agent should not be overlooked. We see no reason why societies should not sell newspapers as readily as they sell groceries; and if the movement ever proceeds to the issue of a daily paper the possession of a well-developed organisation for distribution of papers and magazines will be invaluable.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

For the purpose of directing attention to, and centring discussion upon vital parts of the report, we present our principal recommendations in summarised form :—

MEMBERSHIP.

1. That steps be taken—
 - (a) To bring home to co-operators and non-co-operators the possibilities of the movement as a power for improving the welfare of all classes and particularly the working classes;
 - (b) To enlist the interest of a larger number of people in the social aspirations of the movement;
 - (c) To widen co-operative activities for the purpose of touching co-operative members at more points of their lives; and
 - (d) To make nominal members into conscious and active co-operators.
2. The appointment by societies of whole-time or part-time canvassers.
3. The arrangement by the Central Board of training classes for canvassers.
4. The appointment by the Central Board of organisers.
5. The institution of a National Co-operative Advertising Scheme and Propaganda Campaign.
6. The organisation of a special Propaganda Department at the Union's headquarters.

INCREASING LOYALTY OF PRESENT MEMBERS.

7. The closer connection between trading committees and educational committees of societies as an aid to securing greater loyalty of members through educational and propaganda activities.
8. The more extensive use of facilities at shopping centres for the distribution and sale of co-operative literature as a means of strengthening co-operative opinion and loyalty.
9. The systematic visitation of members, particularly those whose purchases are falling.
10. The development of educational work amongst juniors and adults.
11. The development of men's guilds and women's guilds.
12. The formation of social and recreational clubs as a means of linking co-operative members more closely to their societies.

OVERLAPPING.

13. That steps be taken by all societies to arrange boundaries between themselves and neighbouring societies in order to prevent overlapping and to adopt a scheme for amalgamation where suitable boundaries cannot be fixed, or where amalgamation will lead to greater efficiency.

LARGE AND SMALL SOCIETIES.

14. The amalgamation of societies that are too small to secure efficient administration.
15. The investigation by groups of societies of the conditions prevailing in their district, with a view to discovering what is the most economical size of society

16. The investigation by groups of large societies in conjunction with the Trade Information Bureau of the Co-operative Union of the methods most suitable for organising large societies, and the discussion of changes that have taken place in business administration during recent years in order to secure such improvements as will enable the advantage of large-scale operations to be secured without the disadvantages.

17. The convening by the Co-operative Union of conferences for the discussion of the matters included in Recommendation No. 16.

18. The development of research work in connection with business problems.

19. The appointment by large societies of a general manager without departmental responsibilities, and the freeing of managers from detail work.

20. The determination of the respective spheres of work of managers and committees.

21. The raising of the standard of salaries of managers.

22. Consultation between the Co-operative Union, the National Co-operative Managers' Association, and the Co-operative Secretaries' Association with a view to the preparation of a scale of approved minimum salaries of officials, this scale to be submitted to Congress for its approval, as the standard which all societies should observe.

23. The provision of greater opportunities for managers to visit centres at home and abroad in order to get new ideas and a wider outlook.

24. The development of facilities for the training of managers, secretaries, and management secretarial staffs.

25. The organisation of conferences of small groups of societies working under somewhat similar conditions for the purpose of comparing working expenses and the discussion of possible improvements in business efficiency.

26. The convening annually, by the Co-operative Union, of a conference, or congress, for the discussion of trade and business matters of a technical nature.

27. The consideration of the possibilities of adopting the best features of scientific management.

CAPITAL.

28. The increasing of the amount of capital in the movement and its more co-operative employment.

29. The removal by societies of all restrictions imposed by rules now preventing them from taking the full £200 of share capital allowed by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

30. The initiation of efforts for the removal of the £200 limit of share capital now imposed on societies by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

31. The revision by societies of all rules which fix differential rates of interest; and the payment of one rate of interest for all share capital irrespective of a member's holding or the amount of his purchases.

32. The securing of more loan capital by societies from their members and the alteration of rules, where necessary, to permit the taking of increased amounts of loan capital.

33. The organisation by societies of savings clubs.

34. The appointment by societies of collectors to collect from members contributions to share and loan accounts.

35. The development of the insurance business in the co-operative movement as a means of securing capital.

36. The development of banks for small savings.

37. The taking of the necessary steps to secure the removal of the £20 limit now imposed by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts upon depositors in small-savings banks.

38. The increasing by societies of their reserve funds to a minimum of at least 20 per cent of their share and loan capital.

39. The insistence by societies upon their members holding the minimum amount of share capital prescribed by rule; and the fixing of this minimum in accordance with the needs of the society and the federal institutions.

40. That societies should encourage their members to leave their interest and dividend with the society and to deposit additional capital.

41. The abolition of credit trading; and the reduction of the amount of credit given to a member to three-fourths of his or her share capital pending the complete abolition of credit trading.

42. The more co-operative use of co-operative capital by an examination of the suggestions made in this report for the development of new trading departments.

43. The formation of a co-operative investment society for the purpose of more advantageously investing surplus co-operative capital.

44. The formation of a special co-operative banking society.

TRADE.

45. The developments of the movement's trade by more intensive propaganda and educational work and by securing new members.

46. The opening of new departments and the exercise of greater enterprise.

47. The keeping of separate departmental accounts and the recording of the average purchases per member in each department in each quarter or half year.

48. The convening by the Sectional Boards of conferences of societies in small groups for the purpose of discussing possibilities of increasing the number of departments in retail societies.

49. The undertaking, by societies, of more enterprising advertising; the appointment of canvassers; and the establishment of a propaganda department with a special secretary.

50. The opening, by societies, of the additional departments mentioned in the body of the report; and the undertaking by federations of societies of

the various trading activities also mentioned in the body of the report.

51. The development of co-operative trade by the placing of automatic delivery machines on railway platforms and elsewhere, for the sale of co-operative productions.

52. The provision of suitable grades of shops suitable for various classes of the community, and the various localities in which a society carries on its operations.

CO-OPERATION AND THE POOR.

53. The establishment in Manchester of a special society for the purpose of reaching the poor and providing experience calculated to help the movement to bring co-operation into closer relation with the poor of our large cities and towns.

EMPORIUMS AND DEPARTMENTAL STORES.

54. The opening in the large towns and cities in the United Kingdom of emporiums and departmental stores accessible to the members of co-operative societies in the district.

THE COMPETITION OF MULTIPLE SHOPS.

55. The adoption of suitable methods to meet the competition of multiple shops by the greater standardisation of shop fronts and internal fixtures; the adoption of a distinct co-operative trade-mark for goods of a co-operative origin; and the opening of special shops to sell one or a few commodities, with or without dividend, as may be necessary to meet the competition of the multiple shops.

PROFITS AND DIVIDEND.

56. That goods be sold at current local prices, or a little less, except in those districts where the co-operative movement dominates prices, and in these districts the prices be fixed as low as possible and to yield a dividend of not more than 2s. in the pound.

57. The gradual reduction of dividends.

58. The payment of differential departmental dividends where the opening of a department is being prevented by the high rate of a general dividend.

THE COLLECTIVE USE OF PROFITS.

59. An extension of the collective use of profits in various ways.

60. The development of the scheme for collective life insurance.

61. The formulation of a pension scheme for co-operators based upon their annual purchases.

62. The preparation of a scheme of pensions and superannuation allowances for employees.

63. The provision of assistance to members in cases of sickness, accident, or distress.

MAIL-ORDER BUSINESS.

64. The development of the mail-order business with the formation (if necessary) of a special society for this purpose.

HOSTELS.

65. The establishment, in large towns, of co-operative hostels.

BOOKSELLING.

66. The establishment of a national co-operative bookselling society with branches in the large towns, undertaking also the distribution of newspapers and magazines.

W. MILLERCHIP, Chairman.	} Trade (Production and Distribution) Sub-Committee.
MRS. M. HUNTER.	
G. BISSET.	
W. BRYANT.	
R. FLEMING.	
R. HALSTEAD.	
C. E. WOOD.	} Joint Secretaries.
F. HALL.	

APPENDIX A.

MEMBERSHIP OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

The membership of retail distributive societies shows a record increase of 255,416 for 1916. The next greatest increases were 210,514 for the year 1915, and 175,649 in 1914.

MEMBERSHIP IN VARIOUS SECTIONS IN 1912, 1914, 1915, AND 1916.

SECTION.	1912.	1914.	1915.	1916.	Increase for year 1916.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	
Irish	16,059	22,518	24,126	26,329	2,203
Midland	353,424	399,243	435,144	472,185	37,041
Northern	322,322	351,169	374,535	403,354	28,819
North-Western	1,103,794	1,207,961	1,269,257	1,351,308	82,051
Scottish	419,156	454,119	478,420	514,327	35,907
Southern	336,146	399,366	440,511	482,085	41,574
South-Western	107,663	114,408	125,347	136,498	11,151
Western	92,069	105,513	117,471	134,141	16,670
United Kingdom ..	2,750,633	3,054,297	3,264,811	3,520,227	255,416

MEMBERSHIP OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN THE COUNTRIES OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1901 AND 1911 AND PERCENTAGE RELATION OF
MEMBERSHIP TO POPULATION.

COUNTRY.	1901.		1911.	
	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.
England	1,454,829	4.72	2,166,620	6.36
Isle of Man	646	1.18	909	1.75
Wales	24,462	1.43	53,982	2.67
Scotland	301,626	6.74	406,411	8.54
Ireland	3,509	0.08	14,413	0.33
United Kingdom (excluding Channel Islands).	1,785,072	4.30	2,642,335	5.84

MEMBERSHIP OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN LONDON AREA IN 1901
AND 1911, SHOWN ALSO IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION.

COUNTY.	1901.		1911.		
	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population..	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.	No. of Families to each Co-operator.
Essex	27,198	2.51	52,011	3.85	5.7
Kent	28,781	2.99	44,435	4.25	5.2
London	23,874	0.52	39,060	0.86	26.5
Middlesex	5,452	0.69	23,957	2.13	10.4
Surrey	4,914	0.75	13,038	1.54	14.1
All London area ...	90,219	1.12	172,501	1.94	11.57

MEMBERSHIP OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN VARIOUS COUNTIES
OF ENGLAND IN 1901 AND 1911, SHOWING PERCENTAGE RELATION
OF MEMBERSHIP TO POPULATION.

COUNTY.	1901.		1911.		
	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.	No. of Families to each Co-operator.
Bedfordshire	2,677	1.56	6,800	3.49	6.7
Berkshire	7,310	2.89	12,153	4.48	5.1
Buckinghamshire ..	6,176	3.13	8,095	3.69	6.4
Cambridgeshire	4,780	2.59	9,085	4.59	3.4
Cheshire	47,282	5.66	72,914	7.64	2.9
Cornwall	2,146	0.66	6,280	1.91	12.6
Cumberland	26,466	9.91	32,866	12.37	1.6
Derbyshire	52,715	8.79	82,493	12.07	1.8
Devonshire	37,585	5.68	58,214	8.32	3.0
Dorset	701	0.35	4,101	1.84	12.3
Durham	145,937	12.29	181,837	13.27	1.6
Essex (see over)....	27,198	2.51	52,011	3.85	5.7
Gloucestershire	19,701	2.78	36,882	5.01	4.6
Hampshire	11,326	1.42	23,338	2.46	8.8
Herefordshire	432	0.38	850	0.74	31.3
Hertfordshire	3,522	1.36	7,183	2.51	9.7
Huntingdon	1,134	2.10	1,624	2.92	8.3
Kent (see over)....	28,781	2.99	44,435	4.25	5.2
Lancashire	383,983	8.77	511,901	10.74	2.0
Leicester	23,848	5.45	40,230	8.44	2.7
Lincolnshire	22,564	4.51	32,967	5.85	4.0
London (see over)..	23,874	0.52	39,060	0.86	26.5
Middlesex (see over)	5,452	0.69	23,957	2.13	10.4
Monmouthshire	9,466	3.18	21,052	5.32	3.8
Norfolk	9,944	2.09	15,968	3.20	7.5
Northamptonshire ..	28,341	8.44	43,169	12.39	1.9
Northumberland ..	56,475	9.36	74,039	10.64	2.0
Nottinghamshire ..	24,771	4.81	46,659	7.72	2.9
Oxfordshire	7,343	3.94	15,255	7.66	3.1
Rutland	117	0.59	118	0.58	40.0
Shropshire	3,294	1.37	7,842	3.18	7.0
Somerset	12,615	2.90	22,969	5.01	4.7
Staffordshire	17,510	1.42	48,153	3.57	5.8
Suffolk	10,693	2.86	20,050	5.09	4.5
Surrey (see over)...	4,914	0.75	13,038	1.54	14.1
Sussex	4,188	0.70	8,956	1.35	16.9
Warwickshire	22,491	2.39	51,913	4.99	4.4
Westmorland	2,994	4.65	3,950	6.21	3.7
Wiltshire	7,696	2.84	16,411	5.72	4.1
Worcestershire	12,391	2.74	20,678	3.93	5.7
Yorkshire	333,996	9.27	446,494	11.22	2.2
England as a whole	1,454,829	4.72	2,166,620	6.36	2.64

MEMBERSHIP OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN SCOTLAND IN 1901 AND
1911 AND PERCENTAGE RELATION OF MEMBERSHIP TO POPULATION.

COUNTY.	1901.		1911.	
	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.
Aberdeen	19,164	6.29	19,961	6.39
Argyll	383	.52	422	.60
Ayr	19,915	7.83	26,111	9.73
Banff	428	.70	522	.85
Berwick	227	.74	260	.88
Bute	100	.53	100	.55
Caithness	1,566	4.62	1,468	4.59
Clackmannan	6,871	21.45	8,236	26.46
Dumbarton	11,629	10.21	18,051	12.91
Dumfries	1,909	2.63	3,187	4.38
Edinburgh	45,927	9.40	65,451	12.89
Elgin	42	.09	108	.25
Fife	21,743	9.94	31,492	11.76
Forfar	27,666	9.74	32,225	11.45
Haddington	3,029	7.83	4,836	11.18
Inverness .....	....	..	271	.31
Kincardine	374	.91	324	.79
Kinross	192	2.75	289	3.84
Kirkcudbright	60	.15	187	.49
Lanark	78,884	5.89	110,082	7.61
Linlithgow	5,809	8.84	8,192	10.22
Nairn .....	....	..	....	..
Orkney .....	....	..	....	..
Peebles	1,293	8.58	1,643	10.77
Perth	8,009	6.50	10,901	8.77
Renfrew	21,285	7.91	30,940	9.84
Ross and Cromarty .....	....	..	....	..
Roxburgh	4,794	9.82	4,978	10.55
Selkirk	3,773	16.15	3,404	13.84
Shetland .....	....	..	190	.68
Stirling	16,554	11.37	22,457	13.06
Sutherland .....	....	..	....	..
Wigtown .....	....	..	123	.38
Scotland as a whole	301,626	6.74	406,411	8.54

MEMBERSHIP OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN WALES IN 1901 AND
1911 AND PERCENTAGE RELATION OF MEMBERSHIP TO POPULATION.

COUNTY.	1901.		1911.	
	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.	Number of Members.	Per cent of Population.
Anglesey	174	·34	833	1·64
Brecknock .....	....	..	422	·71
Cardigan .....	....	..	....	..
Carmarthen	710	·52	1,808	1·13
Carnarvon	721	·57	1,202	·96
Denbigh	1,298	·99	3,254	2·25
Flint	920	1·13	2,287	2·47
Glamorgan	18,937	2·20	41,252	3·68
Merioneth	47	·10	45	·10
Montgomery	756	1·38	1,578	2·97
Pembroke	899	1·02	1,301	1·45
Radnor .....	....	..	....	..
Wales as a whole	24,462	1·43	53,982	2·67

APPENDIX B.

CAPITAL OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

SHARE CAPITAL.

Total and average per member in the different sections at the end of 1914, 1915, and 1916.

SECTION.	1914.		1915.		1916.	
	Total.	Per Member	Total.	Per Member	Total.	Per Member
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	159,190	7·07	188,437	7·81	216,406	8·22
Midland	4,488,439	11·24	5,155,007	11·85	5,864,702	12·42
Northern	5,383,495	15·33	5,798,633	15·48	6,357,489	15·76
North-Western ...	17,771,777	14·71	18,847,961	14·85	20,259,789	14·99
Scottish	6,166,677	13·58	6,608,367	13·81	7,134,290	13·87
Southern	3,433,567	8·60	4,041,952	9·18	4,553,273	9·44
South-Western	1,031,555	9·02	1,206,307	9·62	1,276,955	9·36
Western	1,138,349	10·79	1,295,306	11·03	1,490,299	11·11
United Kingdom ..	39,573,049	12·96	43,141,970	13·21	47,153,203	13·39

TRANSFERABLE AND WITHDRAWABLE SHARE CAPITAL.

Amounts of each class of share capital in each section at the end of 1916.

SECTION.	Transferable Shares.	Withdrawable Shares.	Total.
	£	£	£
Irish	15,184	201,222	216,406
Midland	231,714	5,632,988	5,864,702
Northern	2,770	6,354,719	6,357,489
North-Western	983,588	19,276,201	20,259,789
Scottish	227,282	6,907,008	7,134,290
Southern	436,465	4,116,808	4,553,273
South-Western	27,597	1,249,358	1,276,955
Western	61,540	1,428,759	1,490,299
Total for all Retail Societies ..	1,986,140	45,167,063	47,153,203

LOAN CAPITAL.

Total and average per member in the different sections at end of 1915 and 1916.

SECTION.	1915.		1916.	
	Total.	Per Member	Total.	Per Member
	£	£	£	£
Irish	29,593	1.23	39,686	1.51
Midland	712,805	1.64	767,015	1.62
Northern	581,575	1.55	665,932	1.65
North-Western	1,731,815	1.36	1,793,762	1.33
Scottish	1,696,420	3.55	1,836,277	3.57
Southern	595,618	1.35	627,357	1.30
South-Western	129,027	1.03	179,553	1.32
Western	229,773	1.96	260,042	1.94
United Kingdom	5,706,626	1.75	6,169,624	1.75

NATURE OF ITEMS MAKING THE AMOUNTS OF LOAN CAPITAL
AT THE END OF 1916.

SECTION.	Small Savings.	Bank Over- draft.	Sales Club De- posits.	C.W.S. H.P. Scheme	Mort- gages.	Em- ployees G. De- posits.	Ch'cks &c.	Sundries includ'g Loans.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	2,776	13,862	2,112	..	..	5,956	978	14,002	39,686
Midland	423,620	77,506	8,934	44,812	1,689	5,083	4,000	201,281	767,015
Northern	170,631	211,424	17,256	14,699	725	1,821	32	249,344	665,932
North-Western ..	1,060,118	84,277	52,501	51,046	6,418	41,095	4,982	463,125	1,793,762
Scottish	414,043	1,092	19,172	..	56,495	42,455	12,187	1,200,833	1,836,277
Southern	310,330	87,854	16,457	74,740	1,867	4,887	1,958	129,264	627,357
South-Western ..	87,116	45,875	5,134	18,113	550	781	495	21,489	179,553
Western	111,168	52,796	2,048	62,723	1,245	201	699	29,162	260,042
United Kingdom.	2,605,802	574,686	123,614	269,733	68,989	102,879	25,421	2,398,500	6,169,624

RESERVE FUNDS OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES

in various sections at end of 1915 and 1916, with ratio of reserve funds to membership and capital.

SECTION.	1915.				1916.			
	Total.	Per Member.	Per cent of Share Capital.	Per cent of Share and Loan Capital.	Total.	Per Member.	Per cent of Share Capital.	Per cent of Share and Loan Capital.
	£	£	%	%	£	£	%	%
Irish	18,386	.76	9.76	8.43	19,601	.74	9.06	7.65
Midland	308,317	.71	5.98	5.25	351,105	.74	5.99	5.29
Northern	293,642	.78	5.06	4.60	308,949	.77	4.86	4.40
N.-Western ..	1,091,487	.86	5.79	5.30	1,156,745	.86	5.71	5.25
Scottish	857,463	1.79	12.98	10.32	903,805	1.76	12.67	10.08
Southern	281,501	.64	6.96	6.07	329,166	.68	7.23	6.35
S.-Western ..	166,751	1.33	13.82	12.49	171,928	1.26	13.46	11.81
Western	137,504	1.17	10.62	9.02	147,895	1.10	9.92	8.45
United K'dom	3,155,051	.97	7.31	6.46	3,389,194	.96	7.19	6.36

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

TOTAL SHARE AND LOAN CAPITAL AND RESERVES IN THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS AT THE END OF 1916,

With Average per Member for 1912, 1914, 1915, and 1916.

SECTION.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Reserves.	Total Share, Loan, and Reserves.	Average of Share, Loan, and Reserves per Member.			
					1916.	1915.	1914.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	216,406	39,686	19,601	275,693	10.47	9.80	9.00	8.28
Midland	5,864,702	767,015	351,105	6,982,822	14.79	14.19	13.62	13.11
Northern	6,357,489	665,932	308,949	7,332,370	18.18	17.82	17.50	16.97
North-Western ..	20,259,789	1,793,762	1,156,745	23,210,296	17.18	17.07	17.00	16.82
Scottish	7,134,290	1,836,277	903,805	9,874,372	19.20	19.15	18.81	17.89
Southern	4,553,273	627,357	329,166	5,509,796	11.43	11.17	10.55	10.41
South-Western...	1,276,955	179,078	171,928	1,627,961	11.93	11.93	11.35	11.00
Western	1,490,299	260,042	147,895	1,898,236	14.15	14.16	13.95	13.49
United Kingdom .	47,153,203	6,169,149	3,389,194	56,711,546	16.11	15.93	15.67	15.36

APPENDIX C.

TRADE OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES' SALES IN 1914, 1915, AND 1916.

SECTION.	1914.		1915.		1916.	
	Total.	Per Member.	Total.	Per Member.	Total.	Per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	617,677	27·43	711,306	29·48	877,816	33·34
Midland	9,588,670	24·02	11,900,454	27·35	13,975,722	29·60
Northern	12,272,928	34·95	13,969,702	37·30	17,017,284	42·19
North-Western	33,042,785	27·35	38,416,205	30·27	44,799,153	33·15
Scottish	18,018,860	39·68	19,955,472	41·71	24,065,214	46·79
Southern	8,473,037	21·22	10,287,269	23·35	12,425,005	25·77
South-Western	2,152,257	18·81	2,816,726	22·47	2,883,333	21·12
Western	3,789,015	36·00	4,500,645	38·31	5,645,023	42·08
United Kingdom	87,964,229	28·80	102,557,779	31·41	121,688,550	34·57

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

TRADE PER MEMBER IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
IN 1901 AND 1911.

Part of U.K.	1901.			1911.		
	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member
		£	£ s.		£	£ s.
England as a whole	1,454,829	40,164,234	27 12	2,166,620	57,079,490	26 7
Isle of Man	646	18,103	28 1	909	24,953	27 9
Wales	24,462	985,944	40 6	53,982	2,090,737	38 15
Scotland	301,626	11,238,400	37 5	406,411	15,242,951	37 10
Ireland	3,509	90,452	25 16	14,413	404,584	28 1
United Kingdom. (excluding Channel Isles)...	1,785,072	52,497,133	29 8	2,642,335	74,842,715	28 6

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

TRADE PER MEMBER IN THE COUNTIES OF ENGLAND IN 1901 AND 1911.

COUNTY.	1901.			1911.		
	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member
		£	£ s.		£	£ s.
Bedfordshire ...	2,677	40,966	15 6	6,800	111,886	16 9
Berkshire	7,310	115,277	15 15	12,153	193,182	15 18
Buckinghamshire	6,176	87,616	14 4	8,095	158,386	19 11
Cambridgeshire .	4,780	91,509	19 3	9,085	163,399	18 0
Cheshire	47,282	1,314,189	27 16	72,914	2,066,447	28 7
Cornwall	2,146	27,052	12 12	6,280	95,637	15 5
Cumberland	26,466	720,220	27 4	32,866	858,229	26 2
Derbyshire	52,715	1,456,502	27 13	82,493	2,171,388	26 6
Devonshire	37,585	655,567	17 9	58,214	1,047,209	18 0
Dorset	701	14,202	20 5	4,101	76,612	18 14
Durham	145,937	5,669,981	38 17	181,837	6,631,838	36 9
Essex (see below)	27,198	650,359	23 18	52,011	1,307,047	25 3
Gloucestershire .	19,701	407,961	20 14	36,882	808,090	21 18
Hampshire	11,326	168,130	14 17	23,338	438,042	18 15
Herefordshire ..	432	7,690	17 16	850	14,122	16 12
Hertfordshire ...	3,522	69,765	19 16	7,813	163,917	21 0
Huntingdon	1,134	16,759	14 16	1,624	27,257	16 16
Kent (see below)	28,781	694,181	24 2	44,435	967,979	21 16
Lancashire	383,983	10,733,971	27 19	511,901	14,041,986	27 9
Leicestershire ..	23,848	552,871	23 4	40,230	982,330	24 8
Lincolnshire	22,564	483,421	21 9	32,967	742,934	22 11
London (see below) ...	23,874	483,799	20 5	39,060	722,917	18 10
Middlesex (see below) ...	5,542	94,541	17 7	23,957	402,083	16 16
Monmouthshire .	9,466	345,819	36 11	21,052	768,508	36 10
Norfolk	9,944	225,927	22 14	15,968	370,026	23 4
Northampton-shire ..	28,341	646,493	22 16	43,169	967,549	22 8
Northumberland	56,475	2,292,716	40 12	74,039	2,659,985	35 19
Nottinghamshire	24,771	614,555	24 16	46,659	1,195,557	25 13
Oxfordshire	7,343	194,501	26 10	15,255	369,786	24 5
Rutland	117	1,941	16 12	118	2,213	18 15
Shropshire	3,294	58,963	17 18	7,842	164,636	21 0
Somerset	12,615	233,485	18 10	22,969	431,241	18 15
Staffordshire ...	17,510	375,830	21 9	48,153	1,009,055	21 0
Suffolk	10,693	213,533	19 19	20,050	456,298	22 15
Surrey (see below)	4,914	100,249	20 8	13,038	166,796	12 16
Sussex	4,188	76,347	18 5	8,956	243,727	27 4
Warwickshire ..	22,491	489,421	21 15	51,913	1,108,277	21 7
Westmorland ...	2,994	64,596	21 12	3,950	83,453	21 3
Wiltshire	7,696	113,026	14 14	16,411	261,888	16 0
Worcestershire .	12,391	192,678	15 11	20,678	334,149	16 3
Yorkshire	333,996	9,367,625	28 1	446,494	12,294,150	27 11
England as a whole	1,454,829	£ 40,164,234	£ s. 27 12	2,166,620	£ 57,079,490	£ s. 26 7

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

Trade per Member in the Counties of Scotland in 1901 and 1911.

COUNTY.	1901.			1911.		
	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member
		£	£ s.		£	£ s.
Aberdeen	19,164	572,053	29 17	19,961	745,725	37 7
Argyll	383	10,355	27 1	422	11,272	26 14
Ayr	19,915	695,911	34 19	26,111	920,127	35 5
Banff	428	8,990	21 0	522	9,675	18 11
Berwick	227	5,909	26 1	260	5,746	22 2
Bute	100	2,408	24 2	100	2,014	20 3
Caithness	1,566	21,690	13 17	1,468	21,445	14 12
Clackmannan ..	6,871	243,854	35 10	8,236	333,709	40 10
Dumbarton	11,629	508,050	43 14	18,051	723,917	40 2
Dumfries	1,909	51,431	26 19	3,187	92,044	28 18
Edinburgh	45,927	1,889,787	41 3	65,451	2,636,101	40 6
Elgin	42	746	17 15	108	2,060	19 1
Fife	21,743	854,788	39 6	31,492	1,313,469	41 14
Forfar	27,666	578,825	20 18	32,225	672,326	20 17
Haddington	3,029	126,374	41 14	4,836	202,635	41 18
Inverness .....	....	....	..	271	4,702	17 7
Kincairdine	374	5,280	14 2	324	3,497	10 16
Kinross	192	3,308	17 5	289	7,791	26 19
Kirkcudbright ..	60	1,561	26 0	187	4,712	25 4
Lanark	78,884	3,283,481	41 13	110,082	4,322,184	39 5
Linlithgow	5,809	271,607	46 15	8,192	349,914	42 14
Nairn .....	....	....	..	....	....	..
Orkney .....	....	....	..	....	....	..
Peebles	1,293	71,015	54 18	1,643	89,251	54 6
Perth	8,009	241,960	30 4	10,901	324,908	29 16
Renfrew	21,285	754,856	35 9	30,940	1,061,813	34 6
Ross & Cromarty .....	....	....	..	....	....	..
Roxburgh	4,794	148,165	30 18	4,978	167,530	33 13
Selkirk	3,773	131,868	34 19	3,404	146,435	43 0
Shetland .....	....	....	..	190	1,840	9 14
Stirling	16,554	754,128	45 11	22,457	1,061,698	47 6
Sutherland .....	....	....	..	....	....	..
Wigtown .....	....	....	..	123	4,411	35 17
Scotland as a whole	301,626	£ 11,238,400	£ s. 37 5	406,411	£ 15,242,951	£ s. 37 10

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

TRADE PER MEMBER IN THE LONDON AREA (SOCIETIES OPERATING IN MORE THAN ONE COUNTY) IN 1901 AND 1911.

COUNTY.	1901.			1911.		
	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member
		£	£ s.		£	£ s.
Essex	27,198	650,359	23 18	52,011	1,307,047	25 3
Kent	28,781	694,181	24 2	44,435	967,979	21 16
London	23,874	483,799	20 5	39,060	722,917	18 10
Middlesex	5,452	94,541	17 7	23,957	402,083	16 16
Surrey	4,914	100,249	20 8	13,038	166,796	12 16
All London area	90,219	2,023,129	22 9	172,501	3,566,822	20 14

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

Trade per Member in the Counties of Wales in 1901 and 1911.

COUNTY.	1901.			1911.		
	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member	Number of Members.	Total Retail Co-operative Trade.	Average Sales per Member
		£	£ s.		£	£ s.
Anglesey	174	2,009	11 11	833	13,936	16 15
Brecknock .....	..	....	..	422	17,418	41 6
Cardigan .....	..	....	..	..	....	..
Cardmarthen	710	18,899	26 12	1,808	56,713	31 7
Carmarvon	721	14,830	20 11	1,202	33,973	28 5
Denbigh	1,298	23,245	17 18	3,254	78,822	24 4
Flint	920	29,710	32 6	2,287	85,985	37 12
Glamorgan	18,937	860,018	45 8	41,252	1,755,978	42 11
Merioneth	47	2,096	44 12	45	2,850	63 7
Montgomery	756	13,982	18 10	1,578	28,059	17 16
Pembroke	899	21,155	23 11	1,301	17,003	13 1
Radnor .....	..	....	..	..	....	..
Wales as a whole	24,462	985,944	40 6	53,982	2,090,737	38 15

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM SHOWN IN RELATION TO POPULATION : YEAR 1901.

COUNTRY.	Population.	Total Retail Co-operative Sales.	Average Co-operative Sales per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.
England	30,813,043	40,164,234	1 6 0
Isle of Man	54,752	18,103	0 6 7
Wales	1,714,800	985,944	0 11 6
Scotland	4,472,103	11,238,400	2 10 3
Ireland	4,458,775	90,452	0 0 5
United Kingdom	41,513,483	£52,497,133	£1 5 3

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM SHOWN IN RELATION TO POPULATION : YEAR 1911.

COUNTRY.	Population.	Total Retail Co-operative Sales.	Average Co-operative Sales per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.
England	34,045,285	57,079,490	1 13 6
Isle of Man	52,016	24,953	0 9 7
Wales	2,025,202	2,090,737	1 0 8
Scotland	4,760,904	15,242,951	3 4 0
Ireland	4,390,199	404,584	0 1 10
United Kingdom	45,273,606	£74,842,715	£1 13 1

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN THE COUNTIES OF ENGLAND
IN RELATION TO POPULATION: YEAR 1901.

(This table should be compared with the table of membership in the various counties for the same year.)

COUNTY.	Population.	Total Retail Co-operative Sales.	Average Co-operative Sales per Head of Population.
		£ -	£ s. d.
Bedfordshire	171,707	40,966	0 4 9
Berkshire	252,571	115,277	0 9 0
Buckingham	197,046	87,616	0 9 0
Cambridge	184,759	91,509	0 10 0
Cheshire	835,941	1,134,189	1 11 6
Cornwall	322,334	27,052	0 1 6
Cumberland	266,933	720,220	2 14 0
Derbyshire	599,694	1,456,502	2 8 6
Devonshire	662,196	655,567	1 0 0
Dorset	202,063	14,202	0 1 5
Durham	1,187,474	5,669,981	4 15 6
Essex	1,083,998	650,359	0 11 10
Gloucester	708,439	407,961	0 11 6
Hampshire	799,582	168,130	0 4 3
Herefordshire	114,125	7,690	0 1 3
Hertfordshire	258,423	69,765	0 5 5
Huntingdon	54,125	16,759	0 6 2
Kent	961,139	694,181	0 14 6
Lancashire	4,378,293	10,733,971	2 9 0
Leicester	437,490	552,871	1 5 3
Lincolnshire	500,022	483,421	0 19 4
London	4,536,267	483,799	0 2 2
Middlesex	792,476	94,541	0 2 5
Monmouthshire	298,076	345,819	1 3 2
Norfolk	476,553	225,927	0 9 6
Northampton	335,628	646,493	1 18 6
Northumberland	603,199	2,292,716	3 16 0
Nottingham	514,459	614,555	1 4 0
Oxfordshire	186,460	194,501	1 0 10
Rutland	19,709	1,941	0 2 0
Shropshire	239,783	58,963	0 3 0
Somerset	434,950	233,485	0 10 9
Staffordshire	1,236,919	375,830	0 9 0
Suffolk	373,353	213,533	0 11 5
Surrey	653,661	100,240	0 3 0
Sussex	602,255	76,347	0 2 6
Warwickshire	940,879	489,421	0 10 5
Westmorland	64,409	64,596	1 0 0
Wiltshire	271,394	113,026	0 8 4
Worcestershire	452,759	192,678	0 8 6
Yorkshire	3,601,580	9,367,625	2 12 0
England as a whole	30,813,043	£40,164,234	£1 6 0

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN THE COUNTIES OF ENGLAND
IN RELATION TO POPULATION : YEAR 1911.

(This table should be compared with the table of membership for the same counties in the same year.)

COUNTY.	Population.	Total Retail Co operative Sales.	Average Co-operative Sales per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.
Bedfordshire	194,588	111,886	0 11 6
Berkshire	271,009	193,182	0 14 3
Buckingham	219,551	158,386	0 14 5
Cambridge	198,074	163,399	0 16 6
Cheshire	954,779	2,066,447	2 3 3
Cornwall	328,098	95,637	0 5 10
Cumberland	265,746	858,229	3 4 8
Derbyshire	683,423	2,171,338	3 3 7
Devonshire	699,708	1,047,209	1 10 0
Dorset	223,266	76,612	0 6 10
Durham	1,369,860	6,631,838	4 16 10
Essex	1,350,881	1,307,047	0 19 4
Gloucester	736,097	808,090	1 2 0
Hampshire	950,579	438,042	0 9 2
Herefordshire	114,269	14,122	0 2 6
Hertfordshire	311,284	163,917	0 10 6
Huntingdon	55,577	27,257	0 10 0
Kent	1,045,591	967,979	0 18 6
Lancashire	4,767,832	14,041,986	2 18 10
Leicester	476,553	982,330	2 1 0
Lincolnshire	563,960	742,934	1 6 4
London	4,521,685	722,917	0 3 3
Middlesex	1,126,465	402,083	0 7 2
Monmouth	395,719	768,508	1 18 10
Norfolk	499,116	370,026	0 14 10
Northampton	348,515	967,549	2 16 0
Northumberland	696,893	2,659,985	3 16 4
Nottinghamshire	604,093	1,195,557	1 19 8
Oxfordshire	199,269	369,786	1 17 2
Rutland	20,346	2,213	0 2 2
Shropshire	246,307	164,636	0 13 4
Somerset	458,025	431,241	0 18 10
Stafford	1,348,259	1,009,055	0 15 0
Suffolk	394,060	456,298	1 3 2
Sussex	663,378	166,796	0 5 0
Surrey	845,578	243,727	0 5 9
Warwickshire	1,040,409	1,108,277	1 1 3
Westmorland	63,575	83,453	1 6 3
Wiltshire	286,822	261,888	0 18 3
Worcestershire	526,087	334,149	0 12 9
Yorkshire	3,979,964	12,294,150	3 1 10
England as a whole	34,045,285	£57,079,490	£1 13 6

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN SCOTLAND
IN RELATION TO POPULATION: YEAR 1901.

(This table should be compared with the table of membership for the same counties in the same year.)

COUNTY.	1901.		
	Population.	Total Retail Co-operative Sales.	Average Co-operative Sales per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.
Aberdeen	304,439	572,053	1 17 7
Argyll	73,642	10,355	0 2 10
Ayr	254,468	695,911	2 14 8
Banff	61,488	8,990	0 2 11
Berwick	30,824	5,909	0 3 10
Bute	18,787	2,408	0 2 7
Caithness	33,870	21,690	0 12 10
Clackmannan	32,029	243,854	7 12 3
Dumbarton	113,865	508,050	4 9 3
Dumfries	72,571	51,431	0 14 2
Edinburgh	488,796	1,889,787	3 17 4
Elgin	44,800	746	0 0 4
Fife	218,840	854,788	3 18 1
Forfar	284,082	578,825	2 0 9
Haddington	38,665	126,374	3 5 4
Inverness	90,104	....	....
Kincardine	40,923	5,280	0 2 7
Kinross	6,981	3,308	0 9 6
Kirkeudbright	39,383	1,561	0 0 10
Lanark	1,339,327	3,283,481	2 9 0
Linlithgow	65,708	271,607	4 2 8
Nairn	9,291	....	....
Orkney	23,699	....	....
Peebles	15,066	71,015	4 14 3
Perth	123,283	241,960	1 19 3
Renfrew	268,980	754,856	2 16 1
Ross and Cromarty	76,450	....	....
Roxburgh	48,804	148,165	3 0 9
Selkirk	23,356	131,868	5 12 11
Shetland	28,166	....	....
Stirling	142,291	754,128	5 6 0
Sutherland	21,440	....	....
Wigtown	32,685	....	....
Scotland as a whole	4,472,103	£11,238,400	£2 10 3

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN SCOTLAND
IN RELATION TO POPULATION: YEAR 1911.

(This table should be compared with the table of membership for the same counties in the same year.)

COUNTY.	1911.		
	Population.	Total Retail Co-operative Sales.	Average Co-operative Sales per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.
Aberdeen	312,177	745,725	2 7 9
Argyll	70,902	11,272	0 3 2
Ayr	268,337	920,127	3 8 7
Banff	61,402	9,675	0 3 2
Berwick	29,643	5,746	0 3 11
Bute	18,186	2,014	0 2 3
Caithness	32,010	21,445	0 13 5
Clackmannan	31,121	333,709	10 14 5
Dumbarton	139,831	723,917	5 3 6
Dumfries	72,825	92,044	1 5 3
Edinburgh	507,666	2,636,101	5 3 10
Elgin	43,427	2,060	0 0 11
Fife	267,739	1,313,469	4 18 1
Forfar	281,417	672,326	2 7 9
Haddington	43,254	202,635	4 13 9
Inverness	87,272	4,702	0 1 1
Kincairdine	41,008	3,497	0 1 8
Kinross	7,527	7,791	1 0 9
Kirkcudbright	38,367	4,712	0 2 6
Lanark	1,447,034	4,322,184	2 19 9
Linlithgow	80,155	349,914	4 7 4
Nairn	9,319	....	....
Orkney	25,897	....	....
Peebles	15,258	89,251	5 17 0
Perth	124,342	324,908	2 12 3
Renfrew	314,552	1,061,813	3 7 6
Ross and Cromarty	77,364	....	....
Roxburgh	47,192	167,530	3 11 0
Selkirk	24,601	146,435	5 19 0
Shetland	27,911	1,840	0 1 4
Stirling	166,991	1,061,698	6 11 11
Sutherland	20,179	....	....
Wigtown	31,998	4,411	0 2 9
Scotland as a whole	4,760,904	£15,242,951	£3 4 0

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN WALES
IN RELATION TO POPULATION: YEAR 1901.

(This table should be compared with the table of membership for the same counties in the same year.)

COUNTY	1901.		
	Population.	Total Retail Co-operative Sales.	Average Co-operative Sales per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.
Anglesey	50,606	2,009	0 0 10
Brecknock	54,213	....	....
Cardigan	61,078	....	....
Carmarthen	135,328	18,899	0 2 10
Carnarvon	125,649	14,830	0 2 5
Denbigh	131,582	23,245	0 3 7
Flint	81,485	29,710	0 7 4
Glamorgan	859,931	860,018	1 0 0
Merioneth	48,852	2,096	0 0 10
Montgomery	54,901	13,982	0 5 1
Pembroke	87,894	21,155	0 4 10
Radnor	23,281	....	....
Wales as a whole	1,714,800	£985,944	£0 11 6

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN WALES
IN RELATION TO POPULATION: YEAR 1911.

(This table should be compared with the table of membership for the same counties in the same year.)

COUNTY.	1911.		
	Population.	Total Retail Co-operative Sales.	Average Co-operative Sales per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.
Anglesey	50,928	13,936	0 5 6
Brecknock	59,287	17,418	0 5 11
Cardigan	59,879	....	....
Carmarthen	160,406	56,713	0 7 1
Carnarvon	125,043	33,973	0 5 5
Denbigh	144,783	78,822	0 10 11
Flint	92,705	85,985	0 18 7
Glamorgan	1,120,910	1,755,978	1 11 4
Merioneth	45,565	2,850	0 1 3
Montgomery	53,146	28,059	0 10 7
Pembroke	89,960	17,003	0 3 10
Radnor	22,590	....	....
Wales as a whole	2,025,202	£2,090,737	£1 0 8

APPENDIX D.

DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRIBUTIVE BUSINESSES OF DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN UNITED KINGDOM IN 1916.

(Total Number of Societies, 1,386; Number of Societies sending returns, 1,267;
Number of Societies not sending returns, 119.)

PARTICULARS RELATING TO THE 1,267 SOCIETIES THAT HAVE FORWARDED
RETURNS.

Number of Members, approximately 3,050,000. Total No. of Branches, 5,660.

NATURE OF DEPARTMENTS AND NUMBER OF SOCIETIES CONDUCTING THEM.

NATURE OF DEPARTMENT.	United Kingdom.		England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	Carried on by Societies.	% of Total Supplying Returns.	Carried on by Societies.	% of Total Supplying Returns.	Carried on by Societies.	% of Total Supplying Returns.	Carried on by Societies.	% of Total Supplying Returns.
Grocery	1,264	99.8	998	99.70	228	100.00	38	100.00
Drapery	1,180	93.1	948	94.71	212	92.98	20	52.63
Boots and Shoes ...	1,166	92.0	933	92.21	212	92.98	21	55.26
Hardware	1,082	85.4	867	86.61	196	85.97	19	50.00
Furnishing	890	70.2	723	72.23	163	71.49	4	10.53
Earthenware	810	63.9	660	65.93	143	62.72	7	18.42
Coal	749	59.1	610	60.94	128	56.14	11	28.95
Flour	718	56.7	665	66.43	41	17.98	12	31.58
Ironmongery	712	56.2	559	55.84	149	65.35	4	10.53
Butchering	614	48.5	466	46.55	146	64.04	2	5.26
Tailoring	556	43.9	481	48.05	74	32.46	1	2.63
Millinery	380	30.0	320	31.97	58	25.44	2	5.26
Jewellery	186	14.7	135	13.49	50	21.93	1	2.63
Milk	123	9.7	80	7.99	42	18.42	1	2.63
Baking	100	7.9	96	9.59	3	1.32	1	2.63
Restaurants	83	6.6	77	7.69	5	2.19	1	2.63
Clogging	64	5.1	61	6.09	3	1.32	..	..
Chemists	49	3.9	33	3.30	15	6.58	1	2.63
Greengrocery	38	3.0	36	3.60	1	.44	1	2.63
Fish, Game, &c. ...	36	2.8	16	1.60	20	8.77	..	..
Outfitting	30	2.4	28	2.80	2	.88	..	..
Beer, Wine, & Spirits	22	1.7	17	1.70	4	1.75	1	2.63
Fruit	16	1.3	4	.40	11	4.82	1	2.63
Tobacco	13	1.0	9	.90	2	.88	2	5.26
Grain and Corn, &c.	8	.6	8	.80	..	..	..	..
Oils	8	.6	7	.70	..	..	1	2.63
Hairdressing	6	.5	5	.50	1	.44	..	..
Undertaking	6	.5	6	.60	..	..	..	..

The following Departments are reported as being carried on by a small number of societies in the United Kingdom:—Agricultural Implements, Artificial Manures, Clothing, Egg Merchants, Paints and Paper Hanging, Seeds, Dentists, Feeding Stuffs, Poultry, Stationery and News, papers, Colonial Meat, Florists, Excursion Agency, Hosiery, Insurance Agency, Mantles, Botanic Drinks, Building Materials, Cinematograph T., Dentistry Agents, Dyeing and Cleaning Agents, Fire Insurance, Furniture Removing, Fishing Tackle, General Carriers, Light Refreshments, Lime, Musical Instruments, Opticians, Photography Agents, Saddlery.

PRODUCTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND BUSINESSES OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN UNITED KINGDOM, 1916.

(Total Number of Societies, 1,386; Number of Societies sending returns, 1,267; Number of Societies not sending returns, 119.)

PARTICULARS RELATING TO THE 1,267 SOCIETIES THAT HAVE FORWARDED RETURNS.

Number of Members, approximately 3,050,000. Total No. of Branches, 5,660.

NATURE OF PRODUCTIVE BUSINESS AND NO. OF SOCIETIES CONDUCTING THEM.

NATURE OF BUSINESS.	United Kingdom.		England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	Carried on by Societies.	% of Total Supplying Returns.	Carried on by Societies.	% of Total Supplying Returns.	Carried on by Societies.	% of Total Supplying Returns.	Carried on by Societies.	% of Total Supplying Returns.
Baking	701	55.3	546	54.5	151	66.2	4	10.5
Bootmaking and Repairs	500	39.5	385	38.5	114	50.0	1	2.6
Tailoring	300	23.7	202	20.2	98	43.0	..	..
Millinery	232	18.3	179	17.9	52	22.8	1	2.6
Dressmaking	201	15.9	120	12.0	79	34.7	2	5.3
Clogging	135	10.7	126	12.6	9	3.9	..	..
Butchering and Slaughtering	94	7.4	83	8.3	11	4.8	..	..
Farming	73	5.8	68	6.8	4	1.8	1	2.6
Painting and Decorating	37	2.9	33	3.3	4	1.8	..	..
Sausage Making, &c.	35	2.8	21	2.1	14	6.1	..	..
Corn Milling	26	2.1	24	2.4	2	.9	..	..
Joinery	25	2.0	19	1.9	5	2.2	1	2.6
Building	18	1.4	17	1.7	1	.4	..	..
Knitting & Hosiery Manufacturing ..	18	1.4	14	1.4	3	1.3	1	2.6
Laundry	15	1.2	14	1.4	1	.4	..	..
Plumbing	13	1.0	11	1.1	2	.9	..	..
Cabinetmaking	12	.9	12	1.2	..	..	..	..
Bacon Curing	10	.8	9	.9	1	.4	..	..
Dairy	9	.7	5	.5	4	1.8	..	..
Jewellery, Watch Making & Repairs	9	.7	7	.7	2	.9	..	..
Smiths and Forge Works	8	.6	7	.7	..	..	1	2.6
Upholstering	7	.6	5	.5	..	.9	..	..
Wheelwrights	6	.5	6	.6	..	..	..	..

The following Productive Departments and Businesses are reported as carried on by fewer than six societies: Ice Manufacture, Saddlery, Butter Making, Shirt Making, Tripe Dressing Works Department, Drapery, Electric Light and Power, Furniture Manufacture, Mantle Making Mineral Waters, Tinsmiths, Tobacco Manufacture, Baking Powder Manufacture, Clothing Manufacture, Cooked Meats, Firewood Factory, Market Gardeners, Meat Preparation, Picture Framing, Sundries Packing, Underclothing, Baking Powder Packing, Bone, Meat, Blood Manure, Brewery, Brush Manufacture, Clog Sole Making, Contractors, Cycle Repairs, Dyeing and Cleaning, Engineering, Estate Development, Furniture Polishing, Grocery Sundries, Jam Making, Ladies' Outfitting, Live Stock, Mattress and Bed Making, Nurserymen, Paper Bag Making, Plain Sewing, Quarrying, Iron Kilt, Brick Tiles, Salt Packing, Self-Raising Flour, Small Goods, Small Meats, Tallow, Tea Packing, Window Cleaning.

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

DISTRIBUTIVE BUSINESSES AND DEPARTMENTS OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1910 AND 1916.

(These particulars refer only to about 90 per cent of the total number of Societies in the United Kingdom.)

NATURE OF BUSINESS.	1910.					1916.				
	Total number of Societies, 1,424, with approximately 2,500,000 members. This table is compiled from the returns from 1,257 Societies, with 2,324,724 members and 4,513 Branches of all types.					Total number of Societies, 1,386, with approximately 3,050,000 members. This table is compiled from the returns from 1,267 societies, with 3,068,099 members and 5,660 Branches of all types.				
	England and Wales.	Scot-land.	Ire-land.	United Kingdom.		Engl'd and Wales.	Scot-land.	Ire-land.	United Kingdom.	
	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies Undertaking Departments.	% of Total making Returns.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies Undertaking Departments.	% of Total making Returns.
Grocery	1010	228	15	1253	99.7	998	228	38	1264	99.8
Drapery	932	207	8	1147	91.2	948	212	20	1180	93.1
Boots and Shoes	917	212	11	1140	90.7	933	212	21	1166	92.0
Hardware	818	168	6	992	78.9	867	196	19	1082	85.1
Furnishing	708	160	2	870	69.2	723	163	4	890	70.2
Earthenware	673	133	5	811	64.5	660	143	7	810	63.9
Flour	708	60	10	778	61.9	665	41	12	718	56.7
Coal	604	112	9	725	57.7	610	128	11	749	59.1
Butchering	473	145	2	620	49.3	466	146	2	614	48.5
Ironmongery	486	131	2	619	49.2	559	149	4	712	56.2
Tailoring	480	102	2	584	46.5	481	74	1	556	43.9
Millinery	311	66	2	379	30.2	320	58	2	380	30.0
Jewellery	155	52	..	207	16.5	135	50	1	183	14.7
Milk	94	44	3	141	11.2	80	42	1	123	9.7
Restaurant	82	4	..	86	6.8	77	5	1	83	6.6
Chemists	26	8	..	34	2.7	33	15	1	49	3.9
Greengrocery	27	2	..	29	2.3	36	1	1	38	3.0
Fish, Game, &c.	13	11	..	24	1.9	16	20	..	36	2.8
Beer, Wines, and Spirits ..	17	3	2	22	1.8	17	4	1	22	1.7
Oil	8	..	..	8	.6	7	..	1	8	.6
Baking	5	1	..	6	.5	96	3	1	100	7.9
Outfitting	6	..	..	6	.6	23	2	..	30	2.4
Clogging	5	..	..	5	.4	61	3	..	64	5.1
Hairdressing	4	..	..	4	.3	5	1	..	6	.5

The following Departments are reported as being carried on by fewer than four societies, *e.g.*, Undertaking, Laundry, Mantles, Tobacco, Carriers, Colours, Dentistry, Dyeing and Cleaning, Fire Insurance, Fishing Tackle, Hosiery, Insurance Agency, Manure, Feeds and Feeding Stuffs, Lime, Musical Instruments, Opticians, Paper Hanging, Picture Framing, Post Office, Poultry, Provender, Ready-made Clothing, Stationery, Vegetarian Food Specialities, Grain and Corn, Fruit, Agricultural Implements, Egg Merchants, Seeds, Colonial Meat, Florists, Excursion Agency, Botanic Drinks, Building Materials, Cinematograph Theatre, Dentistry Agents Furniture Removing, Light Refreshments, Photography Agents, Saddlery.

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION.

PRODUCTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND BUSINESSES OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES IN UNITED KINGDOM IN 1910 AND 1916.

(These particulars refer only to about 90 per cent of the total number of Societies in the United Kingdom.)

NATURE OF BUSINESS.	1910.					1916.				
	Total number of Societies, 1424, with approximately 2,500,000 members. This table is compiled from the returns from 1,257 Societies, with 2,324,724 members and 4,513 Branches of all types.					Total number of Societies, 1,386, with approximately 3,050,000 members. This table is compiled from the returns from 1,267 Societies, with 3,068,099 members and 5,660 Branches of all types.				
	England and Wales.	Scot-land.	Ire-land.	United Kingdom.		Engl'd and Wales.	Scot-land.	Ire-land.	United Kingdom.	
	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies Undertaking Departments.	% of Total making Returns.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies with Departments.	No. of Societies Undertaking Departments.	% of Total making Returns.
Baking	503	142	1	646	51.4	546	151	4	701	55.3
Boot Making and Repairs.	303	103	..	406	32.3	385	114	1	500	39.5
Tailoring	175	78	1	254	20.2	202	98	..	300	23.7
Dressmaking	129	71	1	201	16.0	120	79	2	201	15.9
Millinery	142	41	1	184	14.6	179	52	1	232	18.3
Clogging	94	1	..	95	7.6	126	9	..	135	10.7
* Farming	42	2	..	44	3.5	68	4	1	73	5.8
* Butchering & Slaughtering .....	..	..	..	..	..	83	11	..	94	7.4
Painting & Decorating	28	2	..	30	2.4	33	4	..	37	2.9
Joinery	16	4	..	20	1.6	19	5	1	25	2.0
Corn Milling	16	1	..	17	1.4	24	2	..	26	2.1
Building	13	2	..	15	1.2	17	1	..	18	1.4
Knitting & Hosiery Manufacturing	11	3	..	14	1.1	14	3	1	18	1.4
Confectionery	13	..	..	13	1.0	..	..	..	..	..
Cabinetmaking	12	..	..	12	1.2	12	..	..	12	1.2
Plumbers	9	1	..	10	.8	11	2	..	13	1.0
Bacon Curing	5	3	1	9	.7	9	1	..	10	.8
Sausage Making	1	6	..	7	.6	21	14	..	35	2.8
Jewellery	3	2	..	5	.4	7	2	..	9	.7
Laundry	5	..	..	5	.4	14	1	..	15	1.2
Mantle Making	3	2	..	5	.4	1	2	..	3	.2
Blacksmiths	4	..	..	4	.3	7	..	1	8	.6
Shirt Making	4	..	..	4	.3	4	..	..	4	.3
Undertaking	3	1	..	4	.3	..	..	..	..	..
Gardening	3	..	..	3	.2	2	..	..	2	.2
Mineral Water Manufs. ..	3	..	..	3	.2	3	..	..	3	.2
Tinsmiths	3	..	..	3	.2	3	..	..	3	.2
Tobacco Manufacturing ..	2	1	..	3	.2	2	1	..	3	.2
Upholstery	3	..	..	3	.2	5	2	..	7	.6
Wheelwrights	3	..	..	3	.2	6	..	..	6	.5

* This department was not classified as a productive department in 1910.

The following Productive Departments and Businesses are reported as being carried on by a few societies, e.g., Butter Making, Glazing, Baking Powder Manufacturers, Brush Makers, Chemists, Clothing Manufacturers, Cycle Repairing, Dairy, Electricians, Firewood Factory, Furnishing, Hairdressing, Ice Making, Iron Quarrying, Kiln, Brick and Tile Making, Meal Milling, Paper Bag Making, Picture Framing, Pork Butchering, Printing, Saddlery, Self-Raising Flour, Spice Boiling, Tea Packing, Tripe Dressing, Works Department, Furniture Manufacturing, Cooked Meats, Meat Preparation, Sundries Packing, Underclothing, Baking Powder Packing, Bone, Meat, Blood Manure, Brewery, Clog Sole Making, Contractors, Dyeing and Cleaning, Engineering, Estate Development, Furniture Polishing, Grocery Sundries, Jam Making, Ladies' Outfitting, Live Stock, Mattress and Bed Making, Nurserymen, Plain Sewing, Salt Packing, Small Goods, Small Meats, Tallow, Window Cleaning.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Supplementary Report on Co-operative Literature.

CO-OPERATIVE NEWSPAPERS.

At the Swansea Congress, when the second Interim Report of the Survey Committee was considered, there was a considerable difference of opinion regarding the wisdom of the committee's recommendations relating to co-operative newspapers. The recommendations of the committee read :

The removal of overlapping between the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator* by the establishment of one newspaper for the whole of the United Kingdom, with different sections to meet the needs of the various sections of the movement. (See Swansea Congress Report, page 225.)

In view of the expression of opinion of the delegates, the Survey Committee promised to take back this recommendation for reconsideration and consult the two newspaper societies concerned, with a view to the presentation of a recommendation which might meet with the approval of both societies and the Survey Committee. In accordance with this promise, the Survey Committee have during the past year consulted the societies, and now present their report.

Immediately after Congress, the Survey Committee representatives consulted the boards of the newspaper societies separately, and found each of them anxious to come into closer working agreement with the other. A joint meeting of the full boards of the two societies, along with representatives of the Survey Committee, was therefore convened on 23rd November, 1917. At this meeting, a memorandum, prepared by the Educational Sub-committee of the Survey Committee, was considered. A copy of this memorandum is given in the appendix at the end of this report. From a perusal of the memorandum, it will be seen that the Survey Committee desired the two newspaper societies to form a bigger conception of their place in the co-operative movement, and to see that the differences between the two societies were really of minor importance in relation to the magnitude of the bigger field which should be occupied by the co-operative press, and which might be entered upon by a National Newspaper and Publishing Society. The Survey Committee desired to lead the discussion from the parochial issues, and get the two societies to undertake the great national work which is awaiting the co-operative press, and which is being neglected so long as the present organisation of the co-operative press continues.

At the joint meeting on 23rd November, the Chairman of the Survey Committee explained the circumstances which had led to the calling of the meeting, and he then commented upon the memorandum and said the Survey Committee would be extremely glad if the boards of the two societies could come to some satisfactory agreement in regard to the future of the co-operative press. If they would then communicate their decisions to the Survey Committee, that committee would consider them with a view to their being adopted in the Report of the Committee to the 1918 Congress. The members of the Survey Committee then withdrew, and the two boards discussed the matter together. After the joint meeting, each committee met separately and prepared recommendations which were afterwards submitted to a joint meeting.

The following are the resolutions passed :—

(a) BY THE CO-OPERATIVE NEWSPAPER SOCIETY LIMITED.

1. That we agree to the proposal for the establishment of a National Co-operative Publishing Society, which should publish not only magazines and newspapers in greater variety than those now published, but books as well.
2. That we express our regret that we cannot formulate any direct terms of arrangement with the directors of the Scottish Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited.
3. That we agree to a policy of amalgamation with the Scottish Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited on terms, and suggest the adjournment of this conference to a future date, and in the meantime the directors of the Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited undertake to submit terms of amalgamation to the directors of the Scottish Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited.

(b) BY THE "SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR" NEWSPAPER SOCIETY LIMITED.

At the first adjournment of the *Scottish Co-operator* Board it was resolved as follows :—

1. That we are prepared to agree to a working arrangement by which the *Co-operative News* can depend chiefly upon the *Scottish Co-operator* Board and its staff for the supply of Scottish news to the *Co-operative News*.
2. That we understand that it would be the policy of the *Co-operative News* Board gradually, and as opportunity offered, to make the edition of the *Co-operative News* circulating in Scotland conform to that circulating in England.
3. That special articles appearing in one paper should be at the disposal of the other on a financial basis afterwards to be agreed upon.
4. That a joint consultative committee of, say, three representatives from each board should be appointed to deal with matters

of mutual interest, and that a joint meeting of the two boards should be held, say, once a year.

At the second adjournment, after hearing the *Co-operative News* Board's proposals, it was resolved—

That, whilst we agree to the principle of the establishment of a National Publishing Society as a future desirability, we regret that, in the meantime, as a preliminary step, the *Co-operative News* Board has not agreed to consider favourably a working arrangement on the lines already suggested.

Since the joint meeting on 23rd November, 1917, and the interchange of the resolutions passed at that meeting, negotiations have been proceeding between the two newspaper societies.

The following proposals and counter proposals have been submitted by the two societies :—

(1) BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR AMALGAMATION BETWEEN THE CO-OPERATIVE NEWSPAPER SOCIETY LIMITED AND THE "SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR" NEWSPAPER SOCIETY LIMITED.

(Put forward by the Co-operative Newspaper Society Ltd.)

1. Assuming an agreement to amalgamate by the two existing newspaper societies, that the new society be called "The National Co-operative Newspaper Society and Publishing Society Limited."

2. The registered office to be at Manchester.

3. The constitution of the National Society to provide that the number of directors to be elected shall be 18, and that for the purpose of efficient and effective administration, the society be formed into two divisions, viz., the English or Central Division and the Scottish Division.

4. That nine directors of the English Board be elected by shareholding societies in the North-Western Section, and one each by shareholding societies in the Northern, Midland, and Southern sections of the Co-operative Union, and the six of the Scottish Board to be elected by a method to be devised by the present directors of the *Scottish Co-operator*.

5. That the two journals, the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator*, cease to be published, and that the new society issue amongst sectional and other papers one weekly paper for the United Kingdom to be named the "National Co-operator," or such other title as may be agreed upon. The title in Scotland could, if necessary, to meet Scottish sentiment, be altered to the "Scottish Co-operator" or the "Scottish National Co-operator." The paper to be sectionalised as conditions and circumstances permit.

6. That the editor-in-chief of the newspaper and other publications issued by the society shall be Mr. W. M. Bamford, and the general manager, Mr. R. Rowbotham.

7. That Dr. Dyer and Mr. W. Reid, the present joint editors of the *Scottish Co-operator*, be retained in the service of the new society at salaries

not less than they are now receiving ; but that in the question of the control of the paper in Scotland and of the literary interests of the Scottish division (subject to the relationship as set forth in the preceding paragraph) the claims of Mr. J. A. Flanagan, the Scottish representative of the *Co-operative News*, have full consideration.

8. That the present system of electing the directors of the two societies be temporarily retained, and that a period of years shall expire before the number of directors for both divisions definitely named in paragraph 3 shall come into operation.

9. That Mr. Bayne be added to the six members of the Scottish Divisional Board, making seven originally, and that one member drop out on the occasion of the first extraordinary vacancy.

10. That the shareholders' meetings of the new society shall be held half-yearly, and in order to symbolise the organic unity of the two newspaper societies, two directors of the Scottish Board shall attend the shareholders' meetings of the English division held at Manchester, and three directors of the English Board attend the shareholders' meetings of the Scottish division.

11. That the new society take over the assets of both societies, and also the liabilities of equal value, and the deficits, if any, to be arranged by consent ; failing such satisfactory arrangement, the matters be referred to the Sub-Survey Committee of the Union.

12. That should the negotiations to amalgamate the two newspaper societies be unsuccessful, that we, the Co-operative Newspaper Society reserve unrestricted freedom of action in the future.

(2a) REPLY OF THE "SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR," 6TH FEBRUARY, 1918.

606, Alexandra Parade, Glasgow,

6th February, 1918.

Mr. W. M. Bamford,

Secretary, Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited.

Dear Sir,—The proposals submitted by your committee as a basis of negotiation between the Co-operative Newspaper Society and the *Scottish Co-operator* Newspaper have been considered by my board.

My committee, however, cannot accept the scheme of amalgamation as suggested in your Draft Scheme.

We do not consider that the co-operative movement would be best served by one national weekly paper, with sectionalised papers for the various districts ; but rather that the movement would be best served by strong local papers, operating within certain defined areas.

Whatever arrangements may eventually evolve from the present negotiations, it is the considered opinion of my board that the identity of the *Scottish Co-operator* must be preserved, that it be managed by a Scottish Board, and that it be printed and published in Scotland.

At the same time, we fully recognise the need for closer co-operation between the two newspapers, and we respectfully submit for the consideration of your directors alternative proposals for a joint working arrangement on a federal basis.

We trust your board will consider these proposals in the spirit they are given, with the view of coming to some practical arrangements.

I am, yours truly,

JOHN ADAMS, Secretary.

(2b) PROPOSALS FOR JOINT WORKING OF THE CO-OPERATIVE NEWSPAPER SOCIETY LIMITED AND THE "SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR" NEWSPAPER SOCIETY LIMITED.

(Put forward by the "Scottish Co-operator" Newspaper Society Ltd.)

1. The *Scottish Co-operator* Board recognises the need for co-operation as close as can be attained with the Board of the English Co-operative Newspaper Society, but feels that its first duty is to maintain a separate newspaper devoted primarily to Scottish co-operative interests.¹ This was made clear by our Chairman at the Carlisle conference,* and any union or united action to be taken must be such as shall not impair that position. We do not agree that the co-operative movement would be best served by one national weekly, whether sectionalised or not, but are of opinion rather that the movement would be better with several strong local papers operating within defined areas. To further the creation of such papers, to extend their circulations and at the same time obviate unnecessary overlapping, and secure economy in production, we feel that there ought to be some working arrangement between the two newspaper societies. We cannot accept the scheme of amalgamation which has been proposed, as we think it would endanger the position of the *Scottish Co-operator*, but as an alternative we make the following suggestions for a new central organisation on a federal basis.

2. That a central organisation for the publication of newspapers, books, pamphlets, &c., shall be jointly created by the Co-operative Newspaper Society and the *Scottish Co-operator* Newspaper Society.

3. In such central organisation the Co-operative Newspaper Society shall be represented by nine directors and the *Scottish Co-operator* by three directors; but each organisation shall carry on its own special work independently of the other except for such mutual assistance as might be agreed on from time to time. Joint meetings of directors to be held quarterly, or at such other times as may be found necessary. The editors also to meet and consult as may be found advisable.

4. The new organisation to be called "The National Co-operative Publishing Society Limited," the head office to be at Manchester and the Scottish office at Glasgow. The head office shall have full control over

* Meeting held on 23rd November, 1917.

English newspapers, and the Glasgow office shall have similar control over Scottish papers, books, pamphlets, and extra publications for general circulation to be under the control of the joint boards.

5. All joint undertakings shall be financed in the following proportions, viz. :—Three-fourths by the English Society and one-fourth by the Scottish Society; profits and losses to be shared in the same proportion.

6. That the boards of the two newspaper societies shall consult and take joint action, as far as possible, in all matters of policy, and with regard to any matter which may protect or advance their mutual interests.

7. This agreement shall be binding for a period of three years, and the question of amalgamation or the continuance of federated working shall then, in the light of the experience gained, be re-discussed at a joint meeting of the boards.

(3) RESOLUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE NEWSPAPER SOCIETY
(LETTER OF 7TH MARCH, 1918).

That the Board of the Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited, in view of the refusal of the Board of the *Scottish Co-operator* Newspaper Society Limited to entertain proposals for the amalgamation of the two societies with the object of establishing a National Co-operative Newspaper and Publishing Society, regrets, after the fullest and most careful consideration of the alternative proposals in favour of a working arrangement, that it cannot see its way to accept the same, as in its opinion they are not calculated to effect that unity and strength in co-operative journalism which under present circumstances is so desirable.

Further, that a special meeting of the shareholders of the Co-operative Newspaper Society be convened for Saturday, 23rd March, in order that this board may report upon the results of the negotiations between the two societies, and ask for the sanction and authority of such meeting to proceed independently with the organisation of a National Co-operative Newspaper and Publishing Society.

On receiving this resolution the committee of the *Scottish Co-operator* Newspaper Society sent two letters (March 9 and March 20, 1918) to the Survey Committee stating, *inter alia*, that the nature of the communication from the Co-operative Newspaper Society precludes any further discussion; but the directors are still of the opinion that a working arrangement for the establishment of a National Co-operative Publishing Society could be arrived at, and the committee have no further observations to make with regard to the position in the meantime.

After reviewing the negotiations that have passed between the committees of the two newspaper societies, the Survey Committee are of opinion that nothing has been disclosed which leads them to think there is any

insurmountable difficulty in the way of organising a truly national co-operative press for the United Kingdom. They are of opinion that the proposals of either society, if adopted, would be an improvement upon the present state of affairs and lead in the direction of consolidation.

The committee therefore present the following recommendations to Congress as being the ideal in favour of which Congress should express itself :—

RECOMMENDATIONS.

- (1) The establishment of a National Co-operative Publishing Society.
- (2) The publication by this National Publishing Society of either—
 - (a) One weekly paper for the whole of the United Kingdom, with sectionalised pages for different parts of the United Kingdom, as may be thought necessary ; or
 - (b) Separate weekly papers for the different parts of the United Kingdom, published mid-weekly and a general paper for the whole of the United Kingdom published on Saturdays.
- (3) The organisation of separate district boards for England (more than one for England, if necessary) and Scotland, the district boards being responsible for the preparation, printing, sale, and circulation of the newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and books in their area on behalf of the National Society, these district boards meeting jointly each quarter and forming the full board of the National Publishing Society.

N.B.—The adoption of this recommendation would involve the undertaking of such developments as would lead to the ultimate establishment by the National Society of a Co-operative Daily Newspaper.

- (4) The capitalisation of the Publishing Society on an adequate basis by appealing to societies to take up shares, and the arrangement of quarterly district meetings of shareholders of the Publishing Society for the consideration of the business of the society.

(5) That if these recommendations meet with the approval of Congress, the Survey Committee, through its Educational Sub-committee, be empowered to give their assistance in bringing the National Publishing Society into existence.

- (6) That failing agreement between the two newspaper societies in regard to the formation of a National Co-operative Publishing Society, the Central Board of the Co-operative Union be instructed to consider the taking over of the two newspaper societies, and itself undertaking the work outlined in this report for a National Co-operative Publishing Society.

W. R. RAE, Chairman.

A. MANN,

F. HALL,

C. E. WOOD,

} Joint

} Secretaries,

} Survey

} Educational

} Sub-committee.

SURVEY EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

APPENDIX.

MEMORANDUM ON THE FUTURE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE PRESS.

(Submitted as a basis of discussion to the Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited and the *Scottish Co-operator* Newspaper Society Limited by the Co-operative Survey (Educational) Sub-committee).

In the discussions which have followed the issue of the Survey Committee's Report on Co-operative Literature, the position, relation, and future of the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator* have claimed most attention. The committees responsible for these publications have naturally felt it their duty to see that the interests which they represent did not suffer as a result of any changes made or contemplated, and the Survey Committee's proposals have been suspected as likely to limit or injure existing organisations.

The further discussion of the Survey Committee's Report has shown, however, what some members of the Survey Committee have recognised all along, viz., that the future of the co-operative press is a bigger question than the relation of the *Co-operative News* to the *Scottish Co-operator*. This memorandum has therefore been prepared in order to put some of the larger issues of the question before the boards of the two newspaper societies and to form a basis of discussion at the meeting of the Survey Committee with the boards of the two societies at Carlisle on 23rd November, 1917. The memorandum is a statement submitted to facilitate discussion, and is not an official statement issued by the Survey Committee, as such a statement can obviously only be prepared after the discussion at the joint meeting referred to and after the Survey Committee have considered the matter in the light of that discussion.

It is now known to the boards of the two newspaper societies that the Survey (Educational) Sub-committee submitted to the full Survey Committee an alternative suggestion *re* newspapers. This alternative suggestion was roughly the publication of sectional newspapers (of which the *Scottish Co-operator* would be the one for Scotland) during the week; and the issue at the week-end of a paper of general co-operative interest for the whole of the United Kingdom. The full Survey Committee did not accept this alternative suggestion, which therefore was not included in the Report to Swansea Congress. There was left, as a result, only the recommendation for the issue of a single paper for the whole of the United Kingdom. This recommendation involved the amalgamation of the two newspaper societies,

or the absorption of the *Scottish Co-operator* by the Co-operative Newspaper Society. This recommendation, not without expectation, was unacceptable to many Scottish co-operators.

The recommendation being withdrawn for further consideration the following questions naturally arose :—

Does the side-by-side circulation of the *Scottish Co-operator* and the *Co-operative News* in Scotland meet with the approval of the two boards and the movement ? If not, what is the remedy ?

So far as we have been able to judge, there is no disposition on the part of the members of either of the newspaper societies to withdraw their paper from circulation in Scotland. Whilst some of them think the present position is satisfactory, others think overlapping does exist, but consider that the paper which they represent should be the one which should occupy the field.

Is it not possible that the way out of this apparent deadlock may be found by the taking of a larger view of the co-operative press and its future, and the organisation or reorganisation of the two newspaper societies to meet the needs of the future ?

The co-operative press of the future as we conceive it, is a much bigger thing than has yet been foreshadowed by any of its advocates. The day may not have arrived for the issue of a co-operative daily paper, but that day must come, and it will come the earlier if other developments leading to the cultivation and organisation of a co-operative reading public are undertaken in the meantime.

The proposal we have to make is the establishment of a National Co-operative Publishing Society which should publish not only magazines and newspapers in greater variety than those now published, but books as well. If this proposal were adopted it would involve the merging, or conversion, of the two newspaper societies ; but the new society would have an English Board or boards responsible for English interests, and one in Scotland responsible for Scottish interests. Each of these boards would have control of the society's interests in its own area, and yet the general interests of the society would be preserved, for there would be no conflict or overlapping between them when their areas of operations were defined in a geographical sense. These separate boards, with their staffs, would be responsible for the weekly sectional paper issued by them, and assist in the circulation of any other new papers or magazines which the society, as a whole, might decide to issue. The two boards might, with very good effect, create a form of district control which would enable local needs to be more successfully met.

One of the developments which seems immediately possible for the sectional papers is the preparation of local supplements which would enable societies to provide their members with, what would be in effect, a local co-operative paper combined with a more general co-operative paper. In view of the decision to enter the political arena, it has become imperative

that societies should have access to their members more frequently with local co-operative and political news than is possible with a monthly record or localised *Wheatsheaf*. It is likely, too, that when the weekly co-operative paper contains four or eight pages of local matter, the circulation of the paper can be increased enormously and thus enable the national aspects of our movement to be more widely explained and understood. Already, at least one society localises the *Scottish Co-operator* one week each month, and there seems no good reason why this method, with necessary modifications, should not be widely applied. The Plymouth Society issues a weekly paper of its own, and in a few other districts the co-operative society is closely connected with a Labour paper. The number of such attempts to circulate weekly a paper with co-operative origins is, however, very small, and the development along these lines needs to be accelerated. This acceleration could be secured by a National Publishing Society which could maintain a staff of correspondents and prepare local pages, for it is obvious that more whole-time correspondents and more journalistic capacity would be required for a weekly paper than is required for the preparation of two or three pages of a localised *Wheatsheaf*.

Eventually, a successful daily newspaper will become a possibility in the movement; and the publication of this paper would naturally fall to the National Co-operative Publishing Society. Indeed, the formation of such a society would immensely hasten the publication of a daily paper. To this society should also fall the publication of the new journals and magazines recommended by the Survey Committee as well as others for which openings will occur from time to time as the membership and activities of the movement increase.

The placing on the public market of co-operative publications has been tried with single magazines, but the results have not been considered very satisfactory. Despite this experience, the need for reaching the non-co-operative public with co-operative literature becomes ever more insistent; and a National Society, with a series of publications would have a much greater chance of success, particularly if, taking a wide view of its functions, it published magazines and other literature of a general character in addition to its co-operative publications. If we keep in mind the fact that co-operative progress is to be measured principally by the amount of employment we provide under co-operative conditions, we shall see the importance of extending our productive activities to the production of magazines and books as well as to the production of foodstuffs and clothing.

Literature departments for the sale of newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and books are likely to be opened in an increasing number of retail societies during the next few years; and this development would be accelerated if there were formed a National Publishing Society from which the retail societies could draw supplies and to whom one remittance for all purchases of co-operative literature could be made. Such a society could afford to maintain a staff of travellers or representatives whose duty it would be to wait upon customers and assist in the promotion of sales.

It seems likely that the number of magazines for special co-operative purposes will increase continuously; and whilst these magazines will necessarily be edited and controlled by the special organisation whose interests they represent, there is no reason why the National Society should not be the organisation for printing and publishing them, or at least the wholesale agent.

The question of printing is a somewhat technical matter upon which the limitations of knowledge and space prevent our entering in this memorandum. With the volume of trade which the society could secure, extra machinery should find full and economical employment, and with an increase in the number of papers and magazines it should be possible to fix publication dates in such a manner as to distribute the work evenly throughout the week or month.

Such a society as we have outlined would doubtless need a much greater amount of capital than the two newspaper societies at present possess; but we have not the slightest doubt that the capital would be forthcoming when a fully-considered plan of sufficient scope was launched.

There are many other matters that would doubtless arise in preparing such a scheme; but these matters could well be considered when the scheme was being prepared. The initiative in the first place can probably best be taken by the two newspaper societies, and when they have come to agreement regarding the principle, we are confident that other matters will adjust themselves.

W. R. RAE, Chairman.	}	Survey Educational Sub-Committee.
A. MANN.		
F. HALL,)		
C. E. WOOD,)		
	Joint	
	Secretaries.	

Reports approved and adopted by General Co-operative Survey Committee.
(Signed)

W. R. RAE, Chairman.	
G. BISSET.	
W. H. BRYANT.	
W. T. CHARTER.	
R. FLEMING.	
W. GREGORY.	
R. HALSTEAD.	
M. HUNTER (Mrs.)	
A. MANN.	
W. MILLERCHIP.	
J. POLLITT.	
W. H. WATKINS.	
A. WHITEHEAD, General Secretary.	
F. HALL.	
T. HORROCKS.	} Assistant Secretaries.
C. E. WOOD.	

38. NATIONAL POLICY.

At the Swansea Congress the Central Board submitted a statement of National Co-operative Policy and a National Co-operative Programme for the Congress Year 1917-18. The policy and programme have been discussed at about fifty sectional and district conferences and other meetings, and a great deal has been done to create opinion upon the subjects included in the policy and programme. About forty societies have amended their rules which limited or restricted the amount of share capital which members might hold in the society; and others are contemplating similar alterations. These alterations have been largely due to the recommendations contained in the policy and programme. Necessary and desirable alterations have been made in both the policy and programme in this, the second, issue. As the full National Programme was discussed last year, the Central Board recommend that the attention of the movement should be concentrated during the coming Congress year on the items given in *italics*.

(a) NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE POLICY.

(SECOND YEAR.)

This statement may be taken, if approved, as a declaration of policy which in the opinion of the Co-operative Union should guide co-operative societies in their various activities. It is not put forward as a complete statement of the points upon which a national policy might be declared; but as the beginning of the formulation of such a policy. Revision and addition from time to time will be necessary.

POINTS OF THE POLICY.

1. MEMBERSHIP.

Membership of a retail distributive society should be open, *i.e.*, membership should be permitted to as many members of a family as care to join.

2. ENTRANCE FEES.

To be low.

3. CAPITAL.

No restrictions on the accumulation of capital, either by fixing a limit to the amount a member may hold.

Members to be required to hold at least the minimum amount of share capital required by the rules of their society.

The removal of the £200 limit now imposed by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts upon members' share holding.

The development of small-savings banks.

The removal of the restriction of £20 limit on small-savings deposits on the increase of the present maximum to £50.

4. PRICES.

Prices not to exceed the current prices of the district.

5. RESERVE FUNDS.

Reserve funds to equal at least 20 per cent of share and loan capital.

6. CREDIT.

Cash payments in all transactions.

7. DEPRECIATION.

Depreciation to be at the rate of at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on buildings and shops; 10 per cent on fixed stock and plant; and 20 per cent on rolling stock. Depreciation to be based on original values.

8. LABOUR.

The payment of at least the trade-union district rate of wages for the occupation, or the minimum rates as approved by Congress from time to time, whichever is higher. The recognition of the trade-union local standard of hours and general conditions of labour as a minimum in each occupation.

9. OVERLAPPING.

The removal of overlapping. The marking of boundaries or the amalgamation of competing societies where boundaries cannot be fixed or where amalgamation will lead to greater efficiency.

10. RAW MATERIALS.

The acquisition and co-operative ownership of sources of supply of raw materials.

11. EDUCATION.

The encouragement and development of co-operative education.

12. HOUSING.

The better housing of the people.

13. POLITICAL PROGRAMME.

The achievement of the co-operative political programme adopted at the London Emergency Conference, October, 1917.

14. PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

The direct representation of co-operators in Parliament and on local governing and administrative bodies.

(b) POINTS FOR A NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME
FOR THE CONGRESS YEAR, 1918-1919.

(It is suggested that attention during the year be concentrated on the items given in italics.)

MEMBERSHIP.

Open membership to be encouraged. Societies to be circularised and visited. Efforts to be made to increase membership.

CAPITAL.

Societies to be urged to persuade members to deposit capital and leave their dividends and interest with their society. Societies to be pressed to establish or develop small-savings banks, and to remove all restriction on the accumulation of share and loan capital.

TRADE AND LOYALTY.

Societies to be urged to appoint canvassers to keep in touch with their members, particularly when their purchases are falling; and to stimulate loyalty by educational work and by improving business efficiency.

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY.

Societies to be urged to improve the efficiency of their business administration by keeping in touch with new and improved methods, by encouraging the technical training of their employees, and by securing better co-ordination between various departments.

DEPRECIATION AND RESERVES.

Societies to be urged to depreciate liberally and increase reserves.

DIVIDENDS AND PRICES.

Societies to be recommended not to increase dividends, but to keep prices down.

EXTENSIONS AFTER THE WAR.

Societies to be pressed to prepare schemes for extending co-operative distributive and productive activities when the war is over.

INSURANCE AND BANKING.

The undertaking of propaganda for the extension of co-operative insurance and banking.

EDUCATION.

Stimulating all forms of educational effort, including salesmen's classes, lectures to managers, and lectures to committees.

Securing a better connection and greater co-ordination of effort between the general committee, the education committee, and other organisations of retail distributive societies.

Propaganda to be carried on to create public opinion in favour of a greatly improved system of national education.

PROPAGANDA, ORGANISATION, AND ADMINISTRATION.

Arrangement of a national propaganda to increase membership, capital, and trade (see special scheme).

Appointment of organisers on the Union staff for propaganda, organising, and administrative purposes.

AFTER-WAR PROBLEMS.

Arranging conferences on after-war problems for the discussion of specially-prepared papers, read usually by the trained persons mentioned below.

Arranging classes on after-war problems; the Co-operative Union—

(a) *To arrange classes for training speakers and teachers of classes in this subject, and*

(b) *To arrange (jointly with local societies) members' classes in this subject all over the country, to be taught by the teachers trained as suggested above.*

HOUSING.

The creation of opinion in regard to the better housing of the people.

INCOME TAX.

Preparation and circulation of literature on this subject.

Arrangement of meetings, lectures, and classes on this subject all over the country, to be taken by the trained speakers and teachers suggested below.

Arrangement of training classes for speakers and teachers to be employed for lectures, conferences, and classes on Income Tax.

LITERATURE.

The preparation of necessary literature required for carrying out the above programme, and particularly the preparation of papers on—

(a) *The National Programme and its Realisation.*

(b) *After-War Problems.*

(c) *Co-operative Capital.*

(d) *Housing.*

GENERAL.

The programme to be first discussed by the United Board, the Sectional Boards, and Congress; and afterwards by the Sectional Boards with their District Association Executives, and by these executives with the committees of the societies in their district.

The General Secretary of the Union to confer with Sectional Secretaries and explain and discuss methods of carrying out the programme.

The papers prepared on the programme to be discussed at least once by each section and district conference association. Organisers to be appointed on the Union staff and to be employed in visiting societies in the various sections to assist in carrying out the national programme, keeping in touch with the sectional boards and the Union headquarters. Frequent conferences to be held of all sectional secretaries and organisers with headquarters staff.

39. CONCILIATION BOARDS.

The district Conciliation Boards have in some districts been kept busy, as will be seen from the list of cases following. In several instances the district boards have failed to agree upon a settlement, therefore, under the rules, the matters in dispute have been referred to the National Board for consideration. In two instances the National Board has undertaken to adjudicate upon questions in dispute without these being first submitted to the district boards, which course is slightly irregular under the rules and regulations governing the Conciliation Board, but the circumstances were exceptional.

The National Conciliation Board has had remitted to it for settlement the following cases :—

(1) From the Hours and Wages Board in the Western Section, on behalf

of 39 societies in South Wales and Monmouthshire District, an application by the A.U.C.E., for improved wages and conditions of labour. Mr. A. W. Tyler was appointed as the independent chairman. The Board sat at Cardiff and heard evidence of representatives from the A.U.C.E. and from the Hours and Wages Board. This meeting was held on 22nd and 23rd August, but the Board being unable to arrive at a settlement an adjourned meeting was held in Manchester on 5th September, 1917, when upon some of the points in dispute the Board came to agreement, remitting the remainder to the independent chairman to determine as arbitrator.

(2) From the Hours and Wages Board of the Rossendale District on behalf of 15 societies in that district, on an application of the A.U.C.E. for an increased war bonus. Mr. A. J. Ashton, K.C., was appointed as independent chairman. The case was heard in Manchester, when representatives from both sides were heard, but after consideration the Board could not agree upon the amount of bonus to be paid, so referred the question to the independent chairman for him to determine.

(3) The Yorkshire District Conciliation Board referred a case to this Board for consideration, that Board having been unable to agree upon the question in dispute. This was a demand by the A.U.C.E. upon the societies in the Dewsbury district for an increased war bonus. The National Board met at Dewsbury on 14th December, 1917, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. A. Robertson, who had been appointed by the Ministry of Labour. Again the Board could not come to agreement, so left the question as to the amount of war bonus to be paid to the independent chairman for decision.

(4) The Northern District Conciliation Board having failed to agree upon a case submitted to them for consideration by the Hours and Wages Board on a demand of the A.U.C.E. for an increased war bonus to be paid by the Hartlepoons Co-operative Society, this matter was remitted to the National Board, which met at Stockton-on-Tees on 25th February, 1918. The Ministry of Labour had notified the secretaries that Mr. W. A. Robertson had been appointed to act as independent chairman, but owing to that gentleman not receiving notice of his appointment in time he did not attend, and sent a telegram which was received whilst the Board was sitting, expressing his regret and would be prepared to come next day. The parties concerned agreed to abide by the decision of the committee, so the case was proceeded with, Mr. W. Gregory being appointed as chairman. Evidence was given by both sides, and eventually it was agreed by both parties represented on the Board to an increase of war bonus, but slightly below the amount demanded. This increase was not to apply to substituted female labour, as separate negotiations had been made on behalf of the whole of the Northern Section.

(5) The Lancashire District Conciliation Board referred a matter in dispute between the A.U.C.E. and 18 societies in the Oldham District to this Board for consideration. The Board met on 27th February, 1918, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. A. Robertson as independent chairman. This was a demand by the A.U.C.E. for an additional war bonus on behalf of all its members except departmental managers. Evidence was given on behalf of

the A.U.C.E. and the Oldham District Hours and Wages Board, after which the case was fully considered, but the Board could not come to a mutual agreement so far as regards the amount of bonus to be paid, the matter was therefore left to the chairman for his decision.

At this meeting the question of hearing future cases was considered, and it was agreed—"That in future, meetings of the National Conciliation Board be held in Manchester for the cases remitted on behalf of the societies in England, North Wales, and Ireland; in Glasgow for Scotland; and in Cardiff for South Wales."

(6) In consequence of having failed to reach a settlement upon a dispute between the A.U.C.E. and the Chester, Ellesmere Port, Garston, and Port Sunlight Co-operative Societies, in which the Union asked that the terms of the award made by the Lancashire Conciliation Board in the Liverpool area, should be made applicable to the aforementioned societies, this case was remitted to the National Board for decision.

The Board met on 10th April, 1918, at Holyoake House, Manchester, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. A. Robertson as independent chairman. After hearing evidence from both sides the Board were eventually able to come to a mutual decision as to the rates of increase to be paid to the employees.

The following cases have been considered by the various district Conciliation Boards :—

(a) MIDLAND.

(1) At Leicester, on 30th April, 1917, to consider a claim by the A.U.C.E. for an increase of war bonus to be paid by the Leicester Co-operative Society to its employees. An agreement was arrived at.

(2) At the request of the A.U.C.E. and the Hinckley Society a meeting was held on 18th June, 1917, to consider the demands for an increased war bonus. In this case the Board came to an amicable settlement.

(3) A question in dispute as to the demand of the A.U.C.E. for an increased war bonus to be paid by the Walsall Society was considered on 2nd July, 1917, and again the Board were able to settle the dispute.

(4) A meeting was held on 23rd July, 1917, to consider the claims of the A.U.C.E. for an increased war bonus to be paid by the Derby Co-operative Society, and an agreement was come to.

(5) The next case was a claim against the Burton-on-Trent Society for the rates of war bonus to be increased. The Board met on 14th August, 1917, and eventually were able to agree on the amount to be paid.

(6) The Board met at Shrewsbury on 29th December, 1917, to consider a claim by the A.U.C.E. for an increased war bonus to be paid by twelve societies in the Shropshire and Mid-Wales District Association. The Board gave an award, classifying the societies in two groups and paying a varying rate to each group.

(7) An application made by the A.U.C.E. on behalf of the employees of the Rugby Society for an increased war bonus was considered on 13th March, 1918, and an inclusive war bonus was given to date from 9th February.

(b) NORTHERN.

(1) The first case heard by this Board was an application by the A.U.C.E. for an all-round advance of wages and a war bonus for all employees, including substituted females, to be paid by the Maryport Society. The Board met at Carlisle to hear evidence, and afterwards met in Newcastle to consider the award, and, as a result, an advance was given to all excepting the substituted females.

(2) An application was made to the St. Anthony's Co-operative Society by the A.U.C.E., on behalf of its members, for an all-round advance. The Board met at Newcastle on 15th December, 1917, and considered the demands, eventually deciding upon a war bonus, and the society promised that all employees' wages would be made up to the district union minimum and the rates set forth in the district substituted female labour arrangements.

(3) The next case considered by the Board was for an increased war bonus to be paid by the Hartlepoons Society. The Board met on two occasions, but were unable to come to a settlement, therefore referred the matter to the National Board for decision.

(c) NORTH-WESTERN—LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

(1) An application by the A.U.C.E. for increases in wages or war bonuses, from the Birkenhead, Liverpool, St. Helens, and Warrington societies, was considered on 9th October, 1917, and it was agreed that any advances conceded should be in the form of an additional war bonus, and inclusive scales were fixed for different classes of workers.

(2) The A.U.C.E., having made an application to the Bolton Co-operative Society for an additional war bonus, to which the society objected, the matter in dispute was remitted to this Board for consideration. The Board met on 2nd November, 1917. The case was considered and an award given which excluded craft workers whose union had secured or was negotiating bonuses or higher rates of wages; also substituted female labour.

(3) Lancaster Society, having received an application for an additional war bonus on behalf of the members of the A.U.C.E. to which they could not agree, referred the question to this Board. The Board met on 24th December, 1917, to consider the application, and came to a settlement.

(4) The A.U.C.E. having made application to the Crewe Society for an inclusive war bonus of 15s. per week to adult males, 10s. to adult females, 9s. to junior males (16 to 21 years of age), 7s. to junior males (14 to 16 years of age) and to junior females (14 to 21 years of age), the society could not see its way to grant the demand, so referred the question to the Board, which met on 16th January, 1918, and an arrangement was come to. This excluded certain classes of employees.

(5) An application made to the Oldham District Hours and Wages Board

by the A.U.C.E. on behalf of the employees engaged in eighteen societies in that district, for an increase of wages, was referred by that Board to this Lancashire District Conciliation Board. The Board met at Holyoake House, heard evidence from both sides, but could not agree, therefore referred the matter to the National Conciliation Board.

(6) A case was remitted to the Board for consideration of an application by the A.U.C.E. for increased war bonus to the employees of the Chester, Ellesmere Port, Garston, and Port Sunlight societies. The Board met on two occasions, but failed to agree as to the amount to be paid, therefore referred the case for the decision of the National Conciliation Board.

YORKSHIRE DISTRICT.

(1) A case heard before last Congress, but too late for inclusion in the report, was on behalf of the employees of Hebden Bridge Society for the abolition of the then existing war bonus and for an increase. The Board decided to abolish the then existing war bonus and gave a graduated increase to all employee members of the A.U.C.E.

(2) A similar application to the above was made on behalf of the employees of York Society, and a new scale of bonus fixed.

(3) An application on behalf of the employees of the societies affiliated to the Airedale District Hours and Wages Board was heard at Bradford, when the question of war bonus and the number of hours worked was considered and a settlement arrived at.

A further meeting of the Board was held to consider questions as to interpretation and whether the award applied to the Keighley Society.

(4) On behalf of the employees of Brighouse Society an application was made. The Board met on two occasions and eventually decided upon an additional war bonus and a special scale of wages to certain departmental workers, excluding certain craft workers.

(5) The A.U.C.E., on behalf of the societies in the Dewsbury district, made an application for an increase of wages for the whole of its members engaged by the societies in that area. The question was considered by the Board at three meetings, but were unable to arrive at a settlement, so remitted the whole case to the National Board for decision.

(d) SCOTTISH.

Since the last report was prepared the Scottish District Board has considered the following cases and in each instance has been able to arrive at a settlement :—

(1) The A.U.C.E. made an application to the Bo'ness Society for an advance of 25 per cent on wages. The society made an offer, which was declined, and the case therefore remitted to the Board for consideration, and a varying percentage rate of increase was eventually agreed upon.

(2) On 5th March, 1918, the Board met at Bathgate to consider a claim of the A.U.C.E. for the introduction of a new scale of wages, while the Bathgate Society offered to recognise the minimum scales applicable to the

Armadales and West Benhar societies at the present time. Some years previously the three societies had been under the same agreement, but this had been allowed to lapse in the case of Bathgate. The case was carefully considered, and it was decided that the proposed minimum wages scale should not be considered, but that a war bonus should be paid and an agreement was come to as to amount. The whole case to be again reviewed, along with an application made to Armadales and West Benhar societies.

(e) SOUTHERN.

The Southern District Board has only had one case remitted to it for consideration, and it is pleasing to note that an agreement was come to. The claim was made by the A.U.C.E. against the Ipswich Society for a revised war bonus. The Board met at the Co-operative Union Offices, London, in order to hear evidence from both sides, and afterwards, as previously stated, agreed to the rates to be paid.

(f) SOUTH-WESTERN AND WESTERN.

No cases have been referred to the South-Western or Western District Boards.

40. HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS.

Hours and Wages Boards have now been formed in all districts or sections, and in many instances have been most useful in settling claims made by employees or unions. No doubt as these get in proper working order greater use will be made of them and thus obviate so many matters being remitted to the Conciliation Boards.

41. WAR EMERGENCY: WORKERS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Activity during the year has been largely directed to questions concerned with food supply. In this, as in other matters, the committee has been throughout considerably in advance of the Government, which is now beginning to adopt measures that should have been in force two or three years ago.

On 1st January, 1917, a deputation met Lord Devonport and urged the adoption of a system of registration of sugar consumers by the various retailers in the country. Many co-operative societies had already taken steps to ration their customers on this principle, with success. To the deputation it seemed quite possible that such a scheme could be extended to other articles of food of which there might be a shortage. (At this meeting it was ascertained that the Sugar Commission had made no attempt to vary the allocation of supplies to different districts to meet the shifting of population from rural and other districts to munition areas.) On 1st January, 1918, twelve months after the deputation met Lord Devonport, the National Sugar Rationing scheme was adopted. The success with which it has been attended fully justifies the committee's advocacy.

Communal kitchens were suggested by the committee as a means of economising both food and labour. The Food Controller has professed to be anxious to see them instituted, but has, unfortunately, not used his influence to make them a part of the public or municipal services of the country. At the time this report is written they are dependent on voluntary effort, and little progress is being made as a consequence.

The committee has issued leaflets dealing with various subjects. One was concerned with the question of profiteering, and contained many striking facts respecting the enormous sums acquired during the war by a class which was already too wealthy. A demand for inquiry into the whole subject was formulated. Another leaflet dealt with the establishment of Food Vigilance Committees. It had a wide circulation, and many of these bodies have since come into existence.

Proposals made to the Ministry of Food with respect to the provision of milk for infants, young children, and nursing and expectant mothers were adopted by the Government with most unusual promptness. The Milk (Mothers and Children) Order was issued on 8th February, 1918.

The committee has been the means of saving large sums of money to working-class householders by taking action under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (War Restriction) Act. A test case was carried to the Court of Appeal, where an adverse decision was registered. An opportunity arose, however, of amending the Rent Restriction Act, of which prompt advantage was taken. It is stated that in the Birmingham area alone the rent of over 60,000 working-class houses, out of a total of 150,000, had been increased. In another town, nearly £25,000 has been recovered on behalf of tenants.

A national convention to discuss the food shortage was held in co-operation with the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee and the Labour Party Executive, when a comprehensive resolution was carried embodying the following points:—(1) Protest against delay in organising an equitable system of distribution; (2) demand for equal rationing amongst all families without distinction of wealth or class; (3) demand for a system of registered orders, filed by registered retailers, supplied by registered wholesalers, backed by the guarantee of the Food Controller that the whole available supply shall be distributed each week in exact proportion, the system to include all foodstuffs of which there may be a shortage; (4) pressure for an organised supply of milk to all nursing mothers and to children; (5) it finally warned the Government very gravely that organised workmen would not submit to Government inefficiency in its primary functions of assuring the food supply, still less any favour to private shopkeepers or the well-to-do classes. Unfortunately, owing to the temporary and regrettable severance of relationships, the co-operative movement was not officially concerned in this important convention.

The committee continues to issue its memorandum showing the increased cost of living, which has been so frequently made use of by speakers and writers, and has had so much influence in arousing public indignation. The

latest edition shows that the purchasing power of a sovereign expended on food has been reduced to only 9s. 6d.

The terrible nature of the burden that will be thrust upon the people by war costs has engaged the careful attention of the Workers' Committee, with the result that proposals have been put forward for the "Conscription of Wealth," for which support has been forthcoming from the Trades Union Congress, the Labour Party, and the Miners' Federation Executive. A joint deputation waited upon Mr. Bonar Law, who expressed the opinion that the adoption of the proposals after the war might become a matter of practical politics. Since the proposals were put forward by the committee they have obtained a very large measure of support. At the heart of this suggestion lies the question of virtual slavery or comparative freedom for the worker.

M. A. GASSON.

B. WILLIAMS.

42. NATIONAL EMERGENCY CONFERENCE.

The Swansea Congress gave instructions that certain grievances, under which the co-operative movement was suffering, should be brought to the notice of the Government. The Joint Parliamentary Committee sought an interview with the Prime Minister, but unsuccessfully. The points proposed to lay before him were, the treatment of the co-operative movement at the hands of military tribunals; the position (past and present) with regard to Excess Profits Duty and Income Tax; the neglect of the Government to use the experience and resources of the co-operative organisations of the country for national purposes during the present crisis; and its failure to give any adequate representation to the movement on the many administrative and advisory committees which had been set up.

The failure of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to obtain that recognition to which the movement is entitled resulted in a joint meeting of the United Board with the Parliamentary Committee to consider what steps should be taken to demand a hearing, and it was decided to convene a special Emergency Conference and hold this as near as possible to the Houses of Parliament.

A conference was duly arranged and held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on 17th and 18th October, 1917. Mr. T. W. Allen was appointed chairman, and about 900 delegates attended. This conference was frequently referred to as an "epoch making" conference. So it was. Questions of vital importance to the co-operative movement were discussed in a businesslike way, and the unanimity which prevailed, except on matters of detail, was a sign which could not be mistaken that the delegates knew their goal and that if at all possible they were determined to reach it.

In addition to the matters mentioned above, other important questions were dealt with and resolution submitted thereon. (1) "The attitude of the Prime Minister towards the Co-operative Movement"; (2) "Co-operators on Service"; (3) "Women and the Franchise"; (4) "The Effect of Controlled

Prices on Co-operative Service"; (5) "Trade-unionism and Co-operators, including the statement of objects to be furthered and attained by the United Advisory Council of Trade-unionists and Co-operators"; (6) "Scheme for securing Co-operative Representation in Parliament and on Local Municipal and Administrative Bodies"; (7) "Resolution of Policy." A report of this Emergency Conference has been issued, including a report of the deputation to the Prime Minister, and can be obtained from the Co-operative Union, price 3d, postage extra.

43. HOUSING AFTER THE WAR.

The Ministry of Reconstruction has been considering various problems of reconstruction after the war. Among others is the housing problem. The Ministry is anxious to consider all possible schemes and possible agents through which housing accommodation could be provided rapidly immediately after the conclusion of peace.

The Co-operative Union received an invitation to send representatives to confer with representatives of the Ministry for the purpose of considering how far, and in what way, co-operative societies would be willing to assist in this national problem, and in what way assistance might be granted to societies for this purpose. The Board accepted the invitation and appointed Messrs. G. Goodenough, F. Hayward, W. H. Watkins, W. B. Neville (Woolwich), and the General Secretary as the representatives.

This deputation met the representatives of the Ministry on 23rd January, 1918, and submitted a statement prepared by the General Secretary with regard to housebuilding by co-operative societies. This showed that the societies (a) owned houses and let them to members, (b) built houses and sold them to members, (c) advanced money to members to purchase houses—the latter the most usual.

The question of the housing position after the war was then discussed in general. The deputation urged that it was important to prevent landlords of existing houses from getting increased rents owing to the higher cost of building new houses after the war. The general principle laid down by the deputation was that housing must be undertaken in the interests of the people living in the houses, and that if the State did not give sufficient financial assistance towards the cost of building, the rents of the new houses would be considerably in excess of present rents of the old ones, and the landlords of the old ones would thus be able to greatly increase rents. Further, that the grant should be sufficient to enable houses to be built at a cost not greater than pre-war cost, and that it would be desirable for the State to control the supply of materials. Priority should be given to the building of factories, working-class houses, and other productive enterprises.

With regard to production of materials, it was urged that it would be desirable to get stock made at the earliest possible moment, and it was pointed out that German prisoners could be turned on to this work.

The deputation urged that similar grants to those made to municipalities for housing purposes should be made to societies.

It was suggested that loans would be necessary from the State and that these should be utilised (a) for building houses which the members would purchase by means of instalments, and (b) the building of houses which would remain in the ownership of the individual co-operative society, but be let to its members. The loan should be equivalent to 90 per cent of the cost of the houses, and might be made through the Banking Department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society to the local society. The deputation offered this as a suggestion, but could not bind the Co-operative Wholesale Society, as they were not authorised to speak on its behalf, but thought the Co-operative Wholesale Society would be agreeable, provided, of course, that the societies to whom the advances were made were authorised societies affiliated to the Co-operative Union, who would vouch for their not being bogus societies.

Several matters of detail were discussed, and the deputation stated they did not think any objection would be raised by the societies to restrictions being made as to the number of houses to the acre, lay-out, &c., but thought they would welcome such proposals. It was further urged that co-operative societies should have direct powers of compulsory purchase of land at a fair price by a speedy method, and believed that, generally speaking, housing would be done as well, or even better, by co-operative societies than by municipalities.

44. ORGANISATION OF ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOTMENT HOLDERS.

Owing to the prevailing shortage of food and the Government appeal for the establishment of allotment gardens, the Co-operative Union issued a circular to societies urging them to give assistance by organising the present allotment holders and stimulating the demand for more land.

Along with the circular a pamphlet containing hints and suggestions to allotment holders was issued which has been exceptionally well received, as it contained some most valuable suggestions useful to allotment holders. Over 32,000 copies of this pamphlet have been printed and demands are still being received for further supplies.

A plan has been agreed upon between the Wholesale Societies and a number of societies by which allotment holders can bulk their orders through the local societies to the Wholesale Societies' Agricultural Departments. The goods are sent direct to the allotment holders and payment can be made to the local co-operative society, which will allow about 20 per cent off the retail prices shown in the catalogues.

This is a work in which co-operative societies can be of great benefit to the country at no great effort or expense to themselves, therefore all societies are earnestly requested to give the question consideration.

BENEVOLENT FUNDS.

45. THE BLANDFORD MEMORIAL.

The Blandford Memorial Fund, contributed by the delegates at the Swansea Congress, amounted to £65. 12s., Of this amount £20 was allocated to the scholarships awarded in connection with the advanced examination in co-operation held under the auspices of the educational department. These scholarships were awarded to Mr. Jas. Downie (Wishaw) and Mr. W. J. Maxwell Brown (Paisley).

The Reception Committee decided that the balance of the amount subscribed should be used in purchasing an operation table for use at the Swansea Hospital, but as this cannot be obtained at present it was decided to retain possession of the fund until such time as a table can be bought.

On the recommendation of the Survey Committee, Swansea Congress decided that, in future, the Blandford Fund collected at Congress shall be equally divided between local charities and co-operative scholarships to be awarded through the Central Education Committee.

46. MINNIE PIT (STAFFORDSHIRE) COLLIERY DISASTER.

The Co-operative Union issued an appeal to societies for donations in aid of the sufferers by the disastrous colliery explosion at Halmerend, Staffordshire, which resulted in the death of 155 men and boys of whom no fewer than 80 were members of two co-operative societies in the district.

Societies have responded most generously, the sum of £1,966. 4s. 3d. having been received to date. This amount includes the grant of £500 from the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

The board appointed a small sub-committee to control the fund. This committee has met, along with representatives from the two societies, and decided that, as there were several funds in the county being raised for the same object, to request the Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent to, if possible, arrange a meeting of representatives from each of the bodies dealing with the various funds, with a view to consider how best to administer the amounts so as to avoid any overlapping, and to arrange for the disposal of any balance after providing for the necessitous cases.

47. BRITISH RED CROSS AND ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

(Dennis Bayley Fund.)

An application for assistance towards the above fund which has been inaugurated by Captain Dennis Bayley, for the transport of sick and wounded soldiers, which fund is registered under the War Charities Act, 1916, was considered by the United Board, and received their approval. The Board therefore authorised the issue of an appeal to all societies, as they considered it a most deserving object.

The fund is really to be used for the upkeep of the ambulances used on the various battle fronts, these vehicles having been provided by several industries, such as the Miners, Cotton Workers, &c., and the appeal was made to the co-operative movement as an industry to do its share. The money received is not used for the ordinary Red Cross work in the United Kingdom, being specially earmarked for a specific purpose.

We find that many societies have during the war been making grants to local Red Cross appeals; still the response to this appeal is fairly satisfactory, the sum of £470. 9s. having been received up to the present.

48. ANGLO-RUSSIAN HOSPITAL FUND.

Societies responded to our appeal on behalf of this fund which was intended to provide beds in the Russian Red Cross Hospitals, but at the time of the Revolution in Russia the precise details had not been arranged, therefore the amount subscribed has not been handed over.

The question as to the disposal of the fund will require careful consideration, but at the moment the amount is invested in the bank.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

49. THE CO-OPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS.

No examination has been held for the vacant "Neale" scholarship which fell vacant in 1917, as, acting on a recommendation of the Central Education Committee, the United Board decided that on account of the continuation of the war no examination be held for 1917 for this scholarship, but that students eligible for the examinations of 1917 or 1918 should be considered eligible for the examination of 1919, even though they have at that time attained the age of 21 years. To this recommendation the Provost of Oriel College stated that the college authorities had no objection.

Mr. P. H. Smith, of Edinburgh, the successful student for the Hughes scholarship in 1915, has not yet taken up residence on account of the war.

CONNECTION WITH OTHER BODIES.

50.—FOREIGN CONGRESS.

**Report of the French Congress, held in Paris, 30th September
and 1st and 2nd October, 1917.**

MESSRS. W. T. CHARTER AND T. HORROCKS.

As the representatives of the British Co-operative Union, we attended the Fourth National Congress of the Federation of French Distributive Societies,

which was held in Paris on 30th September, 1st and 2nd October, 1917. In company with Mr. Frank Bethell, a well-known Southern co-operator, we left London on Thursday, 27th September, travelling with a special permit *via* Folkestone and Boulogne. We arrived at the latter place on Thursday evening, and stayed there overnight, incidentally experiencing an air raid and having to hurry back to our hotel in consequence thereof. We left Boulogne at half-past seven on Friday morning, and after a full day's travel, during which we saw many interesting sights connected with the war, we arrived in Paris about six o'clock, and made our way to the Hotel Moderne, where rooms had been engaged for us by our French co-operative friends.

On the following day we were taken in hand by our kind friend, Daude Bancel, and visits were made to some of the more important co-operative premises in Paris, including the new offices of the French Co-operative Union.

The Congress was held on the premises of the society "La Bellevilloise," Paris, and was attended by about 300 delegates. The first session opened at 9.45 a.m. on 30th September, and was presided over by M. Albert Thomas. In his opening address, M. Thomas expressed gratification that the co-operative movement was displaying such great vitality during the present troubled times, and he referred in terms of high praise to the work and strength of the movement. He then gave a hearty welcome to the representatives present of co-operative organisations in other countries, viz., M.M. Vandervelde and Paulsen (Belgium), Messrs. Charter and Horrocks (Great Britain), M.M. Rénard, Romiend, Duaim, and Suter (Switzerland), and M. Komadinitsch (Serbia). A delegate from each of the countries represented submitted interesting particulars of the movement in their respective countries (Mr. Charter speaking on behalf of British co-operators), and expressed their sympathy with the French co-operators.

M. Thomas thanked the representatives for their presence at the Congress, and expressed his appreciation at the results achieved by co-operation in Great Britain and Switzerland.

Following the reception of the foreign delegates, the Congress proceeded to the discussion of the reports of the National Federation, which dealt with the following matters, viz. :—

1. The work of the National Federation since the last Congress.
2. The method of appointment of administrators from the Central Co-operative organisations.
3. Co-operative societies in the invaded areas.
4. High prices of food.
5. The law of State credit to distributive societies.
6. Legal Department.
7. Administrative and Commercial Information Department.
8. Provision for orphans of the war.
9. Co-operative housing.

Lengthy and animated discussions took place on all the subjects enumerated above, and important resolutions were adopted.

On the Sunday afternoon a large public demonstration, on behalf of the co-operative societies in the invaded areas, was held at the Trocadero, and was presided over by M. Albert Thomas, over 5,000 persons attending. MM. Poisson and Vandervelde were the principal speakers, and their addresses aroused the enthusiasm of the audience to a remarkable degree. The speeches were followed by music and a dramatic entertainment provided by the co-operators of Paris.

On the Sunday evening we attended a fraternal dinner, when short speeches were made by a representative from each foreign country, Mr. Horrocks speaking on behalf of Great Britain.

We left Paris on Thursday morning on our return journey, travelling *via* Le Havre and Southampton, arriving in London early on Friday morning, after having spent a very interesting and instructive time with our French friends. During our stay in Paris everything possible was done to make our visit profitable and enjoyable, and our warmest thanks are particularly due to M. Daude Bancel and Madame, and M. Lyon for their untiring efforts to make our visit one, the memory of which will always remain with us.

51. THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

Mr. W. Gregory (North-Western Section) was appointed as the representative of the Co-operative Union to attend the Trades Union Congress, which was held in Blackpool during last September. He was exceptionally well received by the Congress.

I had the honour of attending and representing the Co-operative Union at the Trades Union Congress held at Blackpool on 3rd September, 1917, and the three following days. There was a large attendance of delegates, and it was soon evident that there was a special interest in the gathering this year. One of the chief items causing this special interest being the discussion on the proposed Stockholm conference and the refusal of the Government to grant passports.

Mr. J. Hill presided over the Congress in a very efficient manner, and in his presidential address made special reference to the proposal to link up trade-unionism with co-operation. He recognised that in such a union there were boundless possibilities and as a guarantee of their *bona-fides* he urged the delegates to unify trade-unionism and co-operation in every city and hamlet in the United Kingdom. During the week many important subjects were discussed affecting the welfare of the people and special resolutions were adopted on such questions as An Eight Hours Day, Workmen's Compensation, Housing of the People, and the Government's failure to deal with Food Prices, &c.

Thursday morning was set aside for the president's address and the reception of fraternal delegates. The latter included representatives from the American and Canadian labour movements, who were well received by the Congress, as also was the Rt. Hon. A. Henderson, who represented the British Labour Party, and delivered a rather lengthy but interesting speech. Only a few minutes remained to me in which to convey to the Congress the greetings of the co-opera-

tive movement and to inform the delegates of the important step we co-operators had taken at the Swansea Congress with reference to direct representation in Parliament, and I expressed the hope that the two movements would often be found fighting side by side in the interests of common humanity.

The Congress resumed its labours in the afternoon, and was brought to a close on the following day.

52. THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.

The annual conference of the National Union of Teachers was held at Cambridge during Easter week. Mr. W. T. Charter (Southern Section), attended as the representative of the Co-operative Union.

I attended the opening meeting of the Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers, held at Cambridge during Easter week, and conveyed the fraternal greetings on behalf of the Co-operative Union and movement as a whole. I was well received, and a hearty invitation was extended to attend as many of the business meetings of the conference as possible.

I found the delegates very enthusiastic, and the agenda had many important items. Many of these were not only of particular interest to the teaching profession, but also of importance to parents of scholars in elementary and other schools. The question of size of classes and hygiene was given considerable prominence, as well as the question of direct representation in Parliament.

Altogether, I consider the conference of national importance, whilst from the teachers' point of view, I should say it was also very successful.

53. THE WOMEN'S GUILDS.

(See Appendix V., page 365).

As usual we submit in the Appendix summaries of the reports sent in by the Women's Guild in England, Scotland, and Ireland. These reports give details of their work and progress.

Grants of £175 to the Scottish and £50 to the Irish Women's Guilds have been made this year by the Central Board.

The Central Board, at its meeting held in October, 1917, considered an application from the English Women's Guild for the grant of £400. The Board agreed to make the grant on the same conditions under which grants are made to the Scottish and Irish Guilds, but on this decision being conveyed to the Guild they were not prepared to accept the grant with any conditions attached.

54. THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

(See Appendix VI., page 377).

The Alliance of Co-operators continues to hold the first place amongst international organisations in the extent to which it has maintained its organisation during the world war. This is no doubt due in large measure to

the attitude of political neutrality which the executive has steadily adopted. They have taken the position that the main work of the movement in every country is of an economic character, tending to unite the people of all nations in a bond of mutual interest which would be for the well-being of the race and antagonistic to all war except the rivalry for excellence. Inasmuch as co-operation in most of the belligerent countries has, under war conditions, emerged as a national force and been quickened in most of its activities, there has been plenty of room for the interchange of experience when the actual necessities of the belligerents have made it possible.

THE "BULLETIN."

The *Bulletin* has, of course, been our chief channel of communication with other countries, and has supplied a very varied selection of reports on the co-operative development abroad. All the editions have been delayed in publication, and have differed in length owing to the interrupted postal service.

Early in 1917 the British Government, in the interests of the "Defence of the Realm," prohibited the importation of journals of enemy origin except upon the issue of a special license by the Board of Trade. We at once took the necessary steps to obtain such journals as were essential to our work, and at the same time free of any suspicion of connection with the war in a political sense.

We continue to enjoy the help of this license, the journals being imported by the Government Department concerned and passed on to the office of the Alliance, thus incurring a double censorship before reaching our hands.

On the suggestion of Dr. Totomianz an attempt has been made to establish a Russian edition of the *Bulletin*. Assurances of support were first obtained from the Russian Union, and it was agreed that the publication should begin, in Russian, as from January, 1918, the issues for the time being to form a supplement to the journal of the Russian Union. Owing to the military situation in Russia since the beginning of the year we have not received any news of the progress of this venture, and, apparently, it cannot now mature until after the war.

NEW MEMBERS.

During the year fifty-six new members have been admitted to the Alliance. Fifty-four of these are British co-operative societies joining up through the Co-operative Union: There is also the Moscow Narodny Bank, referred to in our last report as having established a branch in London, from which is issued the excellent record of Russian co-operative affairs, *The Russian Co-operator*.

The Co-operative League of America, an organisation which unifies the somewhat straggling co-operative interests of the United States, has also been admitted to membership of the Alliance.

CONGRESSES ABROAD.

The Alliance has received invitations to the Congress of the Swiss Union at Lucerne, the French Union at Paris, the Finnish Union at Helsingfors, and the English Women's Co-operative Guild at Torquay.

With regard to the Finnish and Swiss Congresses it was decided that delegates should not be sent owing to difficulties of travelling under present conditions, and in view of the fact that no other national Congress outside the United Kingdom had been recently visited the Executive decided to decline the invitation received from the French Union. In the case of the Women's Guild Congress the General Secretary attended as the representative of the International Co-operative Alliance.

THE DEATH OF EARL GREY, HON. PRESIDENT OF THE ALLIANCE.

We have to record with deep regret the death of the Right Honourable Earl Grey, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., L.L.M., J.P., late Hon. President of the International Co-operative Alliance, which took place at his home, Howick Hall, Northumberland, on 29th August last.

The Executive was represented both at the funeral at Howick and at the Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey. They also placed on record their deep sense of the loss which the Alliance sustained in common with many other organisations of social and economic reform by the death of Earl Grey. For over thirty years his great influence had been at the service of every movement for the general welfare and uplifting of the masses.

SUGGESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

A number of suggestions have been received during the year for meetings of the International Co-operative Congress, either in Congress or of the Central Committee, all of which have been postponed for the time being.

In June last a telegram was received, through the French Union, from the Council of Russian co-operative societies urging the desirability of at once convening an International Co-operative Congress, with a view to consolidating international economic relations, the liquidation of the war, and the consolidation of fraternity.

In August a telegram was received direct from the Congress of Co-operative Distributive Societies asking the Executive to convene an international congress.

To both these messages substantially the same reply was sent, viz., that the Executive, while endorsing the views of the Russian Congress in favour of international fraternity and economic relations amongst co-operators of all countries, did not consider it possible to hold a congress during the continuance of hostilities. Moreover, they considered that the question of the liquidation of the war did not fall within the constitution of the International Co-operative Alliance.

A suggestion was received from the Swiss Union that the members of the Central Committee of the Alliance should be consulted as to the desirability of holding the next meeting of the Central Committee in the town where the

delegates of the various belligerent countries assemble to consider the terms of peace, and at the same time. In the event of the proposal not being adopted they invited the committee to meet in Switzerland.

The Executive replied that they were doubtful whether a very early meeting of the Central Committee would best conduce to the early establishment of good relations, and also whether the various Governments would permit such a meeting. They further suggested that the proposal should be left in abeyance until peace is definitely in sight.

The proposal for an international meeting of co-operators in the town in which and at the same time as the peace terms are considered has also received some support from our friends of the French Union.

CONCLUSION.

At the moment there is every reason to believe that the return of peace will be accompanied by a vigorous activity on the part of co-operators in all the countries. The movement everywhere is being tried as by fire, and it is coming through not scathless, but refined and reinvigorated with regard to its ideals, and all that justifies its existence as an economic factor and a democratic force. Everywhere there are signs of progress, and from the most unlooked for quarters comes the testimony to the value of the co-operative principle as the only equitable means of government and administration in war, and therefore the supreme principle of a lasting peace.

55. HODGSON PRATT MEMORIAL LIMITED.

The Hodgson Pratt Memorial has been founded to keep alive the memory of Hodgson Pratt, one of the greatest workers for the principle of association and co-operation in all its forms during the last century.

It is managed by a committee consisting of representatives appointed by the Co-operative Union, which makes an annual grant to its funds, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the International Co-operative Alliance, the Labour Co-partnership Association, the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, the Working Men's College, the National Council of Peace Societies, and the International Arbitration and Peace Association.

Its president is Sir Henry J. Vansittart Neale, K.C.B., and the hon. secretary Mr. J. J. Dent, both of whom were for many years co-workers with Mr. Pratt.

The Memorial Fund now amounts to £1,533 and is annually increased by subscriptions and donations from organisations with which Hodgson Pratt worked during his long life, and it is hoped to increase the invested fund sufficiently to enable the committee to establish a Hodgson Pratt Scholarship at Ruskin College as well as to carry on educational and other work of service to the workers.

During the past year a grant of £50 was made to the Women's Co-operative Guild to enable it to carry on its citizenship campaign, and smaller grants were made to the Workers' Educational Association, to the Council for the Study of

International Relations, to the British Institute for Social Service, to the Co-operative Reference Library, and the International Labour Legislation Association, and a large number of publications on co-operation and education were distributed by the memorial.

An earnest appeal is made to all co-operative societies for annual subscriptions or donations to enable the committee to extend its labours on behalf of democratic movements, and education.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be addressed to J. J. Dent, 60, Knatchbull Road, London, S.E. 5.

CONGRESS.

56. THE CONGRESS OF 1919.

The Congress of 1919 is due to meet in the Northern Section. The Sectional Board has received invitations from the Carlisle and Stockton-on-Tees Co-operative Societies for Congress.

Representatives have been appointed by the United Board to visit the places named in order to see whether the necessary accommodation is available. The representatives will be prepared to submit to the Liverpool Congress the result of their investigations.

OBITUARY.

57. DECEASED CO-OPERATORS.

The following is a list of co-operators who have died since last Congress notice of whose death appeared in the *Co-operative News*.

It is regrettable to notice in the following list the loss of so many valuable lives of our young men in action or dying from wounds received. Included in the list is the name of J. C. Carr, who was for eleven years a member of the Central Office staff of the Co-operative Union, and who was a most earnest worker and student, having from his taking up duties with the Union identified himself with the *Circle*, and later as a student in the co-operative classes.

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RESOLUTIONS SENT IN BY SOCIETIES.

By the Manchester and Salford Equitable Co-operative Society—

4. INQUIRY *re* INCOME TAX.

That in view of the fact that the majority of co-operators are, through the heavy taxes paid by co-operative societies under Schedules A and B, bearing taxation for which they are not liable, and in view of the agitation to secure the imposition of special taxation upon co-operative trade and trading surpluses, and the proposal of the Government to undertake an Inquiry after the war in regard to Income Tax, this Congress instructs the Central Board to establish a Committee of Inquiry into the question of taxation and assessment of co-operative societies, this committee to consist of members of their own Board, officials, and other persons and organisations, who may be considered likely to promote the success of the Inquiry, and that the Committee of Inquiry thus established be empowered to consult experts and undertake any action that may be considered germane to the inquiry.

By the Great Harwood Industrial and Co-operative Society—

5. PURCHASING POWER, EDUCATION, AND RELIGIOUS TEACHING.

That this Congress, in order that the purchasing power of all co-operators shall be equalised, demands that no efficient school shall be excluded from the fullest educational advantages on the ground that, in addition to teaching other subjects, it also undertakes to give definite religious teaching.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

OF THE

RULES

OF THE

CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED.

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF RULES.

Proposed by the Central Board.

Rule 42. Clause 1 Delete "2s. 6d." in last line, and substitute "5s."

Clause 2. Delete "10s." in last line, and substitute "15s."

Clause 3. Delete "10s." in last line, and substitute "15s."

Clause 4. Delete "2s. 6d." in line 5, and substitute "5s."; in line 6 delete "10s." and substitute "15s."; and in line 7 delete "£1," and substitute "£1. 5s."

Clause 5. In line 5 delete "10s," and substitute "15s."

APPENDIX.

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I. FARMING.

(See Report 6, page 123).

N.B.—Societies holding less than ten acres are not included.

(a) *By Societies.*

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society.	Rented.				Surplus	De- ficiency
MIDLAND SECTION	—			£	£	£	£	£
Annesley Colliery.	Nottingham	..	14	..	..	36	*	*
Coalville	Leicester ..	10	15	..	..	..	*	*
Derby	Derby	52½	..	5129	205	..	*	*
Desborough	Northamptn	3000	..	5000	200	3000	1557	..
Earls Barton	Northamptn	43	..	2380	75	..	50	..
Enderby	Leicester ..	4	605	6526	232	889	1608	..
Gainsborough....	Lincoln ..	..	570	7968	383	672	..	1380
Great Wigston .	Leicester ..	49	90	2201	117	185	218	..
Hucknall Torkard	Nottingham	..	446	5135	185	555	2001	..
Huncote	Leicester ..	37	..	..	..	100	*	*
Ilkeston	Derby ....	..	17	..	..	49	..	191
Kirkby-in-Ashfld.	Nottingham	..	251	3520	138	240	86	..
Langley Mill and								
Aldercar	Nottingham	245	84	10327	432	115	854	..
Leicester	Leicester ..	..	205	2000	100	256	182	..
Lincoln	Lincoln ..	653	147	40351	1631	165	479	..
Long Buckby	Northamptn	267	3	12672	507	6	555	..
Long Eaton	Derby	121½	263	6400	236	484	270	..
Lowdham	Nottingham	17½	..	1000	..	..	*	*
Mansfield and								
Sutton	Nottingham	26	104	4600	..	180	..	2
Market Harboro'.	Leicester ..	96	96	2830	127	235	..	30
Nottingham	Nottingham	271	95	19817	609	120	1273	..
Nuneaton	Warwick ..	119	..	4000	..	200	..	104
Peterborough	Northamptn	311	37	14417	542	87	49	..
Raunds	Northamptn	160	215	7500	300	209	1114	..
Ripley	Derby	30	..	1835	..	97	*	*
Rushden	Northamptn	124	..	..	..	..	*	*
Selston	Nottingham	18	..	776	..	..	37	..
Shepshed	Leicester ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tamworth	Stafford ..	650	190	14303	715	208	..	49
Ten Acres	Worcester..	25	..	2612	130	..	..	128
NORTHERN SECTION	—							
Ashington Equit.	Northumbld	..	64	..	..	73	155	..
Birtley	Durham ..	..	572	5832	232	912	1237	..
Bishop Auckland	Durham ..	..	275	1140	57	400	53	..
Brandon and								
Byshottles	Durham ..	1½	12	..	..	29	..	..
Chester-le-Street .	Durham ..	..	212	841	49	320	601	..

* No separate account kept.

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society	Rented.				Surplus	De- ficiency
NORTHERN SECTION— <i>continued.</i>								
Consett.....	Durham ..	200	..	£ 2483	£ 74	£ ..	£ 50	£ ..
Cornforth and Coxhoe.....	Durham ..	33	..	1769	88	41	8	..
Darlington	Durham ..	..	80	600	25	200	..	..
Derwent Flr. Mill	Durham ..	..	144	1572	..	220	122	..
Hartlepoons.....	Durham ..	210	17	18661	933	80	216	..
Haswell.....	Durham ..	..	55	300	15	77	136	..
Middlesbrough...	York .....	..	16	88	..	48	*	*
New Brancepeth..	Durham ..	..	16	..	..	18	7	..
Ryhope&Silksw'th	Durham ..	..	40	360	18	111	40	..
Seaton Delaval ..	Northumbld	..	242	3292	165	375	888	..
Sherburn Hill....	Durham ..	..	...	600	30	..	180	..
Skelton	York .....	..	204	2646	56	360	194	..
Teesdale	Durham ..	4	9	..	..	32	*	*
West Pelton	Durham ..	25	..	1146	42	..	107	..
West Wylam and Prudhoe	Northumbld	100	19	2800	140	116	181	..
NORTH-WESTERN SECTION—								
Ashton-u-Lyne ..	Lancaster ..	..	358	8950	..	453	..	..
Barnsley British..	York .....	..	139	..	..	152	*	*
Birkenshaw.....	York .....	..	21½	190	9	48	167	..
Blackley	Lancaster	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blackpool	Lancaster..	17½	..	2505	100	..	..	1018
Bolton	Lancaster	44	..	2500	..	..	*	*
Bradford (City of)	York	18	75	1800	72	97	*	*
Brightside and Carbrook	York	180	27	9506	556	74	90	..
Burnley	Lancaster..	77	5	9000	375	100	..	56
Carnforth	Lancaster	11½	..	..	..	..	*	*
Chesterfield.....	Derby ....	..	66	..	..	130	..	..
Dalton-in-Furness	Lancaster..	9½	15	..	..	61	233	..
Failsworth	Lancaster	24½	0½	3929	77	..	..	255
Farnworth and Kearsley	Lancaster..	15	..	883	37	..	*	*
Hepworth	York .....	..	12	..	..	17	..	..
Honley	York	17½	7½	1269	51	15	..	50
Huddersfield	York .....	..	20	..	..	23	*	*
Hull	York	478	7	14000	560	28	..	1155
Hyde	Chester....	..	15½	..	..	40	..	29
Kirkburton	York	9	1	..	..	7	..	13
Kirkby-in-Furness	Lancaster..	40	..	3138	156	125	..	31
Leeds	York	81	..	5106	193	..	..	696
Longridge	Lancaster..	..	13	..	..	32	..	30
Masbro'	York	14½	4½	2768	115	20	*	*
Middlestown	York .....	..	..	..	..	..	47	..
Millom.....	Cumberland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Milnsbridge.....	York .....	..	23	..	..	35	..	..
Mirfield	York .....	..	14½	..	..	41	*	*

* No separate account kept.

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year	
		Owned by Society	Rented.				Surplus	De- ficiency
NORTH-WESTERN SECTION— <i>con.</i>								
Nelson	Lancaster..	41½	..	£ 3767	£ 232	£ ..	£ 32	£ ..
Netherthong ...	York	11	..	1085	55	..	..	20
Pendleton	Lancaster..	..	44	..	..	86	30	..
Preston	Lancaster..	13½	..	..	..	..	*	*
Shelley	York	10	..	486	..	..	..	..
Silsden	York .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Skipton	York .....	..	180	3400	168	330	5	..
Stockport	Chester ..	..	20	..	..	45	..	..
Whitworth	Lancaster ..	20	..	375	..	..	..	..
Winnington	Chester ....	..	11	..	..	25	119	..
Wooldale	York	14½	7½	1020	..	15	..	47
York	York .....	..	64	100	5	142	*	*
C.W.S., M'chester.	Lancaster..	5399	..	163594	4846	..	12598	..
SCOTTISH SECTION —								
Bannockburn	Stirling	30	..	1250	60	..	40	..
Dunfermline	Fife .....	..	505	11762	376	1124	3062	..
Greenock (Cen.)..	Renfrew... ..	175	..	12000	374	300	..	..
St. Cuthbert's....	Edinburgh..	769	..	37786	1875	1525	8648	..
Tranent	Haddington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Walkerburn	Peebles ....	..	40	1000	50	105	275	..
SOUTHERN SECTION —								
Banbury	Oxford	81	..	4836	158	..	142	..
Berkhamsted	Herts.	13	..	3650	182	..	..	281
Chipping Norton.	Oxford	160	40	6300	220	35	360	..
Haverhill	Suffolk ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ipswich	Suffolk	341	20	16737	..	33	615	..
Sawston	Cambridge..	2	55	300	..	69	60	..
Sheerness Econ...	Kent .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sittingbourne	Kent .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trowbridge	Wilts. ....	..	69	1700	60	247	..	180
SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION—								
Buckfastleigh	Devon	4½	70½	1645	82	139	..	..
Paignton	Devon	0½	10	460	23	40	..	..
Plymouth	Devon	2555	80	65000	3250	225	..	2768
Radstock	Somerset ..	..	230	1500	..	320	..	..
Torquay	Devon ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
WESTERN SECTION —								
Abersychan and Talywain	Glamorgan..	..	49	..	..	73	49	..
Cwmbach	Glamorgan..	..	126	300	15	108	79	..
Frampton Cott'rill	Gloucester..	26	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.....								
		17606½	7870	633526	23120	18014	41159	8513

* No separate account kept.

(b) *Farming Societies.*

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society.	Rented.				Surplus	De- ficiency
SOUTHERN SECTION Assington	— Suffolk ....	..	233	£ 1733	£ 38	£ 170	£ ..	£ 252
WESTERN SECTION Coln St. Aldwyns	— Gloucester	..	574	3000	..	402	1703	..
Total.....	.....	..	807	4733	38	572	1703	252

II.—LIST OF INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1917.

(See Report 11, page 129.)

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

ABBREVIATIONS.—C means Co-operative; E, Equitable; I, Industrial; L, Land; and P, Provident. "Limited" is understood after every name, and "Society" where A (Association) is not added.

County	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Glamorgan....	6098	Gelli and District Allotments and Gardeners' A.	54, Bronllwyn - road, Gelli, Pentre (Rhondda), Glam.
Glamorgan....	6099	Fernhill Allotments (Treherbert).	Brynawen Garden Village, Treherbert (Rhondda), Glam.
London	6100	Income Tax Protection and Relief	37-39, Essex-street, Strand, W.C. 2.
Herts	6101	Apsley End Allotments	Apsley Working Men's Club, Hemel Hempstead.
Gloucester	6102	Fishponds Allotments	17, Elmgrove - road, Fishponds, Bristol.
Yorks.....	6103	Birdwell Allotments	13, Rockingham-st., Birdwell, Barnsley.
Middlesex	6104	Brentford C. Poultry.....	1, The Mall, Brentford.
Surrey.....	6105	Surrey, Hants., and Berks. Growers.	74, Castle-st., Farnham.
London..	6106	Motor Retailers' A.	214, Great Portland-street, W. 1.
Radnor	6107	Newbridge-on-Wye and District Agricultural C.	Woodcastle Farm, Newbridge-on-Wye, Radnor.
Glamorgan....	6108	Penarth Home Food.....	Albert Hall, Albert-road, Penarth.
Middlesex	6109	Ealing and District Utility Poultry.	Cornwall House, Mount-av., Ealing, W. 5.
Wilts.	6110	Swindon and District Allotments A.	111, Dean-st., Swindon.
Yorks....	6111	Cononley Smallholders.....	6, Oddfellows House, Cononley, Keighley.
Glamorgan....	6112	Mardy Allotments.....	2, Station-ter., Mardy.
Glamorgan....	6113	Rhondda Fach Gardeners and Allotments A.	10, Avenue, Pontygwaith, Glam.
Cambridge	6114	Wendy and Shingay Parish War.	The residence of the Secretary, Miss M. Taylor, Wendy, Royston, Herts.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Suffolk	6115	Lowestoft and District Allotments	11, Winnipeg - road, Lowestoft.
Durham	6116	East Stanley Allotments	10, Polinaize - street, East Stanley, Stanley, co. Durham.
Cardigan	6117	Crosswood and District Agricultural C.	Lodge Farm, Crosswood, Aberystwyth.
Middlesex	6118	Potters Bar and District C.....	"Rosemead," Potters Bar, Middlesex.
Yorks.....	6119	Sandal Magna Allotment.....	The Oaks, Sandal, Wakefield.
Durham	6120	Murton National Democratic Social Club.	Church-st., Murton, co. Durham.
Cambridge	6121	Cambridge and District Food Culture.	3, St. Mary's Passage, Cambridge.
Hants	6122	Bitterne and District Allotments A.	Martin Parish Hall, Brook-rd., Bitterne, Southampton.
Dorset.....	6123	Dorset Farmers	Midland Bank Chambers, Cornhill, Dorchester.
Cardigan	6124	Vale of Aeron Agricultural C.....	Stores, Felinfach, Cardigan.
Glamorgan ..	6125	Parc and Dare Allotments	127, Parc-road, Cwm- parc, Treorchy (Rhondda); Glam.
Derby	6126	Brimington Gardeners' A.	42, Queen-street, New Brimington, Ches- terfield.
Hants	6127	Aldershot and District Allotment A.	4, The Roses, St. George's-rd, Alder- shot.
Somerset	6128	Bruton District Produce and Allotments A.	School House, Bruton, Somerset.
Norfolk	6129	Norwich Food Production League	9, St. Peter's-street, Norwich.
Kent	6130	Dartford District Tenants	23, Hythe-st. Dart- ford.
Denbigh	6131	Brymbo District Allotment A. ..	Brynawel, Brymbo, Wrexham.
Somerset	6132	Rowbarton Allotments A.	25, Salisbury-street, Taunton.
Glamorgan ...	6133	Burry Port Garden Suburb	32, Park-place, Cardiff
Glamorgan ...	6134	Resolven and District Allotments and Smallholders' A.	Dorothy Refreshment Rooms, Resolven, Neath.
Gloucester	6135	Nailsworth District Agricultural C.	House of Mr. W. H. James, Market-st., Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucester.
Carnarvon	6136	Criccieth Women's Institute (Trading)	34, High-st., Criccieth, Carnarvon.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Devon	6137	South Devon Agricultural C. ...	Higher Wotton, Bickington, Newton Abbot.
Chester	6138	Stockton Heath Allotments A. ..	Brookleigh, Grappen- hall-road, Stockton Heath, Warrington.
Durham	6139	Broom Smallholders	8, Windsor - avenue, Ferryhill.
Yorks	6140	Guiseley Allotments A.	New Inn, Guiseley, Leeds.
Somerset	6141	Weston-super-Mare and District Growers' A.	1, Hatfield-road, Weston-super-Mare
Somerset	6142	Knowle and District Allotments A.	42, Belluton-road, Knowle, Bristol.
Leicester	6143	Coalville and District Small- holders' and Allotment Holders'	Halfway House, Bel- voir-road, Coalville, Leicester.
Surrey	6144	Chobham District Growers	Tower House, High- street, Chobham, Woking.
Glamorgan ...	6145	Cae Gurwen Allotments and Gardeners' A.	Clifton, Gwaun-Cae- Gurwen, Glam.
Wilts.	6146	St. George's Netherhampton C. ..	Netherhampton House, Nether- hampton, Salisbury
Dorset	6147	Iwerne Minster Produce	Estate Office, Iwerne Minster, Blandford.
Durham	6148	Cockton Hill Allotment	7, High Melbourn- street, Bishop Auckland.
Wilts.	6149	Bemerton, Quidhampton and District Allotments A.	18, Nursery-rd., Bem- erton, Salisbury.
Yorks	6150	Barnoldswick and District Utility Poultry Keepers' A.	Sago Chambers, Back Church-street, Bar- noldswick, Colne.
Glamorgan ...	6151	Glamorgan Collieries Piggeries A.	49, Sherwood - place, Llwynypia, Glam.
Glamorgan ...	6152	Porthcawl Allotments and Gar- deners' A.	Council Offices, John- street, Porthcawl, Glamorgan.
Nottingham ..	6153	Warsop Freeholders	14, Little Carter- lane, Mansfield.
Essex	6154	West Essex Smallholders'	59, Skelton's - lane, Leyton, E.10.
Bucks.	6155	Amersham and Chesham Bois Food Production.	St. Stephen's Hill- avenue, Amersham, Bucks.
Somerset	6156	Bedminster Allotments	36, Raymead - road, Victoria Park, Bed- minster, Bristol.
Gloucester	6157	Bristol East Allotment A.	Glenthor Wood-road, Kingswood, Bristol.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Kent	6158	Langley and Dist. Agricultural C.	Crown & Horse Shoes, Langley, Maidstone
Glamorgan ...	6159	Cymmer (Port Talbot) Allotments.	2, Avondale - terrace, Cymmer, Port Talbot.
Northants ...	6160	Kettering Allotments	"Hillcroft," Lower-street, Kettering.
Yorks.....	6161	King Cross and District C Utility Poultry.	Sewer Works, Skircoat Moor - road, King Cross, Halifax.
Leicester	6162	Kirby Muxloe and District C. Egg and Produce.	White House, Main-street, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester.
Hants.	6163	Portsmouth Allotments A.	Rose Villa, Copnor-road, Copnor, Portsmouth.
Somerset	6164	Shepton Beauchamp and District Smallholdings and Allotments A.	House of Mr. J. Salway, Shepton Beauchamp, Seavington, Somerset.
Northumbrlnd.	6165	Scotswood Allotments A.	St. Margaret's Parish Hall, Scotswood, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Glamorgan ...	6166	Clydach-on-Tawe Cottage Gardeners' & Allotment Holders' A.	Richmond Villa, Clydach, Glamorgan.
Surrey.....	6167	Haslemere and District C. Egg Depôt	Information Bureau, High-street, Haslemere, Surrey.
Bucks.....	6168	Iver Heath and District Agricultural.	The Gardens, Hillbrook-place, Iver Heath, Uxbridge.
Middlesex	6169	Northwood C. Poultry and Beekeepers' A.	7, Station-rd, Northwood, Middlesex.
Durham	6170	Oxhill Central Allotments	72, Joicey - terrace, Oxhill, Stanley, co. Durham.
Oxford.....	6171	Sherburn and District Farmers' Mutual A.	Sherburn Castle, Watlington Wallingford.
Derby	6172	Tutbury and District Farmers' C. A.	Hatton House, Station-road, Hatton, Burton-on-Trent.
Middlesex	6173	Uxbridge and District Agricultural C.	32, High-st., Uxbridge
Durham	6174	Shield Row Allotment A.	2, Slingsby - terrace, Shield Row, Stanley, co. Durham.
Staffs.....	6175	Heath Town and District Allotment Holders' A.	4, Prestwood - road, Wednesfield, Staffs.
Wilts.	6176	City of Salisbury Allotment A. ..	Radnor House, Salisbury.
Glamorgan ...	6177	Crystal Allotment Holders' C.	67, Dogfield - street, Cardiff.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
London	6178	Southfield Agriculture (War) A...	22, Replingham-road, Southfield, S.W.18.
Derby	6179	Whaley (Bolsover) Allotments A..	Black Horse Inn, Whaley, Langwith, Mansfield.
Worcester	6180	Worcestershire Fruit & Vegetable.	37, Foregate - street, Worcester.
Northumbrlnd.	6181	Willington Quay Social Club and Institute.	134, Bewicke - road, Willington Quay, Northumberland.
Yorks.....	6182	York and District Farmers' Auction Mart.	Ebor Dairy, Copper- gate. York.
Essex	6183	Walton - on - the - Naze Fisher- men's C.	25, Station - street, Walton - on - the - Naze.
Derby	6184	Newton Blackwell and West- houses Allotments.	House of Mr. A. H. Enser, Alfreton-rd., Newton, Alfreton.
Norfolk.....	6185	Stoke (Norwich) Shire Horse:	Abbott's Farm, Stoke Holy Cross, Nor- wich.
Glamorgan ...	6186	Ystalyfera and District Allot- ments.	25, Heol Varteg, Ystal- yfera, Glamorgan.
Middlesex	6187	Teddington District Piggery	30, Manor-road, Ted- dington, Middlesex.
Sussex	6188	Bexhill Allotment and Small- holders' A.	13, Devonshire-road, Bexhill-on-Sea.
Yorks.	6189	Burley East End Allotment	5, Lawn-rd., Burley- in-Wharfedale, Leeds.
Cornwall	6190	St. Stythian's and District Farmers.	Golden Cheese Fac- tory, Menherion, Redruth.
Glamorgan ...	6191	Cambrian District Allotments and Gardeners' A.	22, Park-terrace, Cly- dach Vale, Blaen- clydach (Rhondda), Glamorgan.
Glamorgan ...	6192	Godre'r Graig Allotments and Gardeners.	92, Craig-road, God- re'r Craig, Glam.
Gloucester	6193	Horfield and District Allot- ments A.	3, Lockleage - road, Horfield Bristol.
Cumberland ..	6194	Keswick Egg Depôt.	16, John-st., Keswick.
Cornwall	6195	Lostwithiel and District Farmers.	Restormel, Lost- withiel, Cornwall.
Devon	6196	Devonport Royal Dockyard Can- teen and Restaurant.	Devonport Royal Dockyard North Canteen, Devonport
Herts.	6197	Chorley Wood C. Produce.	The Swillett, Chorley Wood, Rickmans- worth, Herts.
Pembroke	6198	Milford Haven I.	96, Robert-street, Mil- ford Haven.
Yorks.....	6199	Saddleworth Poultry.....	Wharmton Vale, Greenfield, Oldham

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Yorks.....	6200	Rawmarsh and District Agricultural.	Red Lion Hotel, New-street, Rawmarsh, Rotherham.
Northampton .	6201	Raunds and District Egg Collecting Depôt.	18, North-st., Raunds, Wellingborough.
Yorks.....	6202	Primrose Hill Park Allotments A. (Wakefield).	13, Johnston-street, Wakefield.
Northumbrlnd.	6203	Morpeth Allotment and Smallholders.	3, Abbey View, Morpeth.
Suffolk	6204	Leiston and District Allotments C.	80, King George's-avenue, Leiston, Suffolk.
Devon	6205	Ilfracombe Allotments and Smallholders' C.	15 Belmont-rd., Ilfracombe.
Yorks.....	6206	Greetland and District Trading ..	8, Ely-st., West Vale, Halifax.
Glamorgan ...	6207	Birchgrove and District Gardeners and Allotments.	Nazareth Row, Birchgrove, Llansamlet, Glamorgan.
Kent	6208	Tonbridge C. Pig-keeping.	Medway Wharf, Tonbridge.
Durham	6209	Trimdon Grange Allotment.	18, Front-st., Trimdon Grange, co. Durham.
Gloucester	6210	Stapleton Allotment and Smallholders' A.	Fernbank, Brinkworthy-rd., Stapleton, Bristol.
Monmouth ...	6211	Llantilio Crossenny and District Agricultural C.	Schoolhouse, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny.
Glamorgan ...	6212	Glais Agricultural	Graig View, Glais, Clydach, Glam.
Essex	6213	Brightlingsea and District Fishermen's C.	53, Waterside, Brightlingsea, Colchester.
Glamorgan ...	6214	Bush Smallholdings A.....	221, Court-st., Tony-pandy (Rhondda), Glamorgan.
Leicester	6215	Coalville and District Farmers' A.	Central Chambers, Coalville, Leicester.
Monmouth ..	6216	Maesycwmmmer and District Allotments A.	2, West-av., Maesycwmmmer, Cardiff.
London	6217	National Herb Growing Industry.	15-16, Verulam-street, Grays Inn-road, W.C. 1.
Glamorgan....	6218	Seven Sisters Allotments and Gardeners' A.	Maesy Berthllan, Seven Sisters, Neath.
Carmarthen ..	6219	South-West Wales Milk Producers' A.	Havodwen, Carmarthen.
Sussex	6220	Midhurst and District Egg Depôt.	Station-rd., Midhurst.
Carmarthen .	6221	Llynfell Gardeners and Allotments	Berrington Villas Cwmllynfell, Lower Cwmtwrch, Glam.
Durham	6222	Lanchester Allotment	11, Ford-road, Lanchester, Durham.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Glamorgan	6223	Hendreforgan Allotment A. (Gilfach Goch).	7, Alfred-street, Hendreforgan, Gilfach Goch, Bridgend.
Worcester	6224	Droitwich and District C. Produce	29, Ombersley-street, Droitwich, Worcester.
Berks.	6225	Basildon C.	Co op. Stores, Upper Basildon, Reading.
Glamorgan	6226	Ystrad Rhondda Allotment and Gardeners' A.	1, Masey Coed Villas, Old Penrhys-road, Ystrad Rhondda, Pentre (Rhondda), Glam.
Essex	6227	Woodham C.	Eyott Farm, South Woodham, Chelmsford.
Gloucester	6228	St. Werburgs and District Allotments A.	7, St. Werburgs-road, Mina-road, Bristol.
Glamorgan....	6229	Porth and District Amateur Gardeners and Allotment Holders' A.	The Bungalow, Caernawe-road, Porth (Rhondda), Glam.
Yorks.....	6230	Pontefract Allotment Holders' A.	6, Priory Glen, Pontefract.
Glamorgan....	6231	Neath Allotments and Cottage Garden A.	14, Oakwood-row, Neath.
Glamorgan....	6232	Bryn Gardeners and Allotments..	16, Meadow-row, Bryn, Port Talbot.
Monmouth ...	6233	Newbridge and District Allotment and Gardeners' A.	1, Meredith - terrace, Newbridge, Newport, Monmouth.
Kent	6234	Weald Threshing and Implement.	6, High-st., Tonbridge.
Warwick	6235	North-East Holly Walk Allotments A.	4, Campion - terrace, Leamington Spa.
Derby	6236	Carr Vale Allotment Gardeners ..	67, Scarsdale - road, Carr Vale, Chesterfield.
Derby	6237	Ashbourne Road District Allotment A.	11, Shelton - terrace, Slack-lane, Derby.
Denbigh	6238	Stansty and District C. Allotments A.	34, Edward-st., Wrexham.
Glamorgan....	6239	Ely Valley Allotments and Gardeners.	20, Pembroke-street, Thomastown, Tonyrefail, Glam.
Derby	6240	Buxton Lime Firms Cottage Gardens A.	Royal Exchange Buildings, Buxton.
Warwick	6241	Stoke Allotments (Coventry)	Rose & Crown, Stoke, Coventry.
Glamorgan....	6242	Pontyclun and District Allotments A.	26, Palalwyf-avenue, Pontyclun, Glam.
Glamorgan....	6243	Ogmore Vale Allotments and Gardeners' A.	Glen - view, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend.
Derby	6244	Glossop, Hadfield, and District Allotments A.	17, Pike's-lane, Glossop.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES—con.			
Leicester	6245	Ellistown and District Allotments and Small Holders.	Ashville, Ellistown, Leicester.
Dorset	6246	Dorchester and District Garden and Allotment Holders' A.	Ashlea, Maumbury Way, Dorchester.
Gloucester . . .	6247	Whitehall and District Allotments A.	6, Woodcroft avenue, Whitehall, Bristol.
Pembroke . . .	6248	South - West Wales Farmers' Marts and Sales A.	Stores, Clynderwen, Pembroke.
Glamorgan . . .	6249	Pontardawe and District Cottage Gardeners and Allotment Holders' A.	Hillside, Uplands, Pontardawe, Glam.
Durham	6250	Sandhole Workmen's Social Club.	23, Grey-st., Oxhill, Stanley, co. Durham.
Suffolk	6251	East Suffolk Vegetable Produce C.	86, Princes - street, Ipswich.
Gloucester . . .	6252	Westbury Park Allotments	The Depôt, Upper Cranbrook-rd., Westbury Park, Bristol.
Glamorgan . . .	6253	Treharris Allotments and Gardeners' A.	8, Mary-st., Treharris, Glam.
Monmouth . . .	6254	Tredegar and District Allotment Holders.	2, Glyn-ter., Tredegar.
Glamorgan . . .	6255	Pont Neath Vaughan Allotments.	White Horse Hotel, Pont Neath Vaughan, Neath.
Glamorgan . . .	6256	Glynneath and District Allotment A.	Myrddin House, Glyn-Neath, Neath.
Yorks	6257	Featherstone and District Allotment Holders' A.	16a, Featherstone-lane, Featherstone, Pontefract.
Staffs.	6258	Ashbourne and District C. Egg and Poultry.	Mayfield Hall, Ashbourne.
Warwick . . .	6259	Royal Leamington Spa and District Allotments A. Federation	44, Greatheed - road, Leamington Spa,
Northumbrlnd.	6260	Pegswood and District Allotment and Smallholders' A.	Garden Cottage, Pegswood, Morpeth.
Glamorgan . . .	6261	Kenfig Hill and District Allotment and Gardeners' A.	23, Evan-street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend.
Leicester . . .	6262	Leicestershire E. Thrift and C. P. Intensive Production.	Let's Co-op. House, 49, Humberstone-road, Leicester.
Middlesex . . .	6263	Cricklewood War Food	28, Heber-road, Cricklewood, N W. 2.
Gloucester . . .	6264	Ashley Vale Allotment A	48, Stafford-road, Bristol.
Warwick . . .	6265	Rugby Trades and Labour Hall Club and Institute.	16a, Albert-st, Rugby.
Berks.	6266	L. V. Trade Supply	161, King's-road, Reading.
Brecon	6267	Ystradgynlais and District Allotment Holders and Cottage Gardeners' A.	Marlais House, Weaver's-road, Ystradgynlais, Brecon.
Glamorgan . . .	6268	Radyr and Morgantown Allotments and Cottage Gardens A.	9, Gelynis-ter., Morgantown, Cardiff.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES—con.			
Worcester	6269	Pershore C. Preservers	Pomona Works, High-street, Pershore, Worcester.
Monmouth....	6270	Llantaram, Llanfrechla, Upper and Lower and Henllys Gardeners and Allotments C.	Llantarnam, Newport, Monmouth.
Derby	6271	Killamarsh Amateur Gardeners' A.	Congregational Schoolroom, Killamarsh, Sheffield.
Yorks.....	6272	Hemsworth and District Allotment.	Westfield Villa, Hemsworth, Wakefield.
Glamorgan....	6273	Glyncorrwg Allotment	36, Brick-street, Glyncorrwg, Port Talbot.
Glamorgan....	6274	Gilfach Goch Allotments A. . . .	Workmen's Institute, Evanstown, Gilfach Goch, Bridgend.
Devon	6275	Exeter and District Allotment Holders' C. A.	110, Monks-road, Exeter.
Glamorgan....	6276	Bryn Afon Allotment A.	31, Protheroe-street, Caerau, Bridgend.
Glamorgan....	6277	Aber and Blaengwynfi Garden and Allotment.	Brynteg, Blaengwynfi, Port Talbot.
Monmouth....	6278	Abercarn and Cwmearn Allotment A.	88, Gwyddon-rd., Abercarn, Newport, Mon.
Glamorgan....	6279	Merthyr and District Allotment Holders' A.	4, Fairview-terrace, Merthyr Tidvil.
Derby	6280	Highfields, Chaddesden and District Allotments A.	2, Highfields Cottages, Chaddesden, Derby.
Glamorgan....	6281	Cilfynydd and District Allotment A.	94, Cilfynydd-road, Pontypridd.
London	6282	Catford Allotments A.	24, Penberth-road, S.E. 6.
Staffs.	6283	Oxley Allotments A.	2, Knolton Cottages, Bushbury-lane, Wolverhampton.
Yorks.....	6284	Tinsley Garden	75, St. Lawrence-road, Tinsley, Sheffield.
Yorks.....	6285	West Bradford Utility Poultry ..	33, Toller-lane, Manningham, Bradford
Durham	6286	Windlestone Smallholdings and Allotments A.	63, Arthur-st., Windlestone, Ferry Hill, co. Durham.
Monmouth....	6287	Blackwood and District Allotment.	"Oakleigh," Cefn-rd., Blackwood, Newport, Mon.
Gloucester	6288	Ashley Down and District Smallholding and Allotment A.	32, Park-avenue, Ashley Down, Bristol.
Carnarvon	6289	Glansoch C. Implement	Neigwl Ucha, Bottwnog, Pwllheli.
Glamorgan....	6290	Pontrhydyfen and District Allotment.	"Rhiwfelen," Pontrhydyfen, Port Talbot.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
		ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>	
Glamorgan....	6291	Skewen and District Agricultural, Cottage Gardeners', Allotment-holders', & Poultry Keepers' A.	21, Cardonnel-road, Skewen, Neath.
Durham	6292	Spennymoor Allotment Holders' A.	4, Baff-street, Spenny-moor.
London	6293	Hand-loom Industry.....	102, Fulham - road, S.W.3.
Wilts.	6294	Atworth and District Agricultural C. (an amalgamation of 5340 R. Wilts, and 6041 R. Wilts.)	Hulberts, Atworth, Melksham.
Gloucester	6295	Cheltenham and District Allotment and Smallholders.	St. George's Nurseries, St George's-road, Cheltenham.
Derby	6296	Ashbourne and District C. Milk Producers' A	Victoria Chambers, Ashbourne.
Monmouth....	6297	Cwmfelinfach Allotments.....	6, Mill-street, Cwmfelinfach, Newport, Mon.
Glamorgan ..	6298	Partridge-road (Llwynpia) Allotment.	73, Partridge - road, Llwynpia (Rhondda), Glam.
Warwick.....	6299	Church End Gardens (Coventry).	Edale, Harefield-rd., Coventry.
Anglesey	6300	South Anglesey Agricultural Imple- ment.	Cerrig Barcud, Bryn-siencyn, Llanfair-pwllgwyngyll, Anglesey.
Yorks.	6301	Rectory Field (Parkgate) Allotment.	Holly Bush Tavern, Parkgate, Rotherham.
Gloucester ...	6302	Winchcombe Unionist Working Men's Club.	Abbey-ter., Winchcombe, Glos.
Carmarthen ..	6308	Ammanford and Dist'ct Farmers' Trading and Cattle Auction Mart.	Parcwern, Ammanford, Carmarthen.
Glamorgan....	6304	Nantymoel and District Allotment and Gardeners' A.	9, Pembroke-terrace, Nantymoel, Bridgend.
Derby.....	6305	Pilsley Grange Allotments	19, Queen-st., Pilsley, Chesterfield.
Glamorgan....	6306	Upper Trehafod Allotment	12, Bryn Eirw, Trehafod, Pontypridd.
Yorks.	6307	Bradford Poultry	15, Deneside-terrace, Siddles-lane, Bradford.
Durham	6308	Ferryhill Station Smallholders' and Allotment Holders' A.	10, Clive-st., Ferryhill Station, co Durh'm
Warwick....	6309	Birmingham Industrial C. (an amalgamation of 2252 R. Warwick and 5064 R. Staffs.)	High-street, Birmingham.
Glamorgan....	6310	Trealaw United Allotment Holders' A.	5, Garth-rd., Trealaw, Dinas (Rhondda), Glam.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Yorks.	6311	Ossett and District Allotments .	65, Horbury - road, Ossett, Yorks.
Denbigh	6312	Llangerniew C. Cheese Factory ..	The Factory, Llangerniew, Abergele, Denbigh.
Warwick.....	6313	Keresley Allotments	Heathfield - terrace, Keresley, Coventry.
Glamorgan....	6314	Blackmill and District Allotment and Gardeners' A.	2, Ivor-terrace, Blackmill, Bridgend.
Leicester.	6315	Bagworth and District Allotment and Smallholders.	90, Station-road, Bagworth, Leicester.
Yorks.	6316	Goole Smallholders and Allotment A.	15, Clifton Gardens, Goole.
Yorks.....	6317	Methley Allotment and Gardeners' A.	Methley Junction Institute, Methley, Leeds.
Glamorgan....	6318	Penrhys and Tylorstown Allotment and Gardeners' A.	8, Deri-street, Tylorstown, Pontygwaith (Rhondda), Glam.
Lancs.....	6319	Rhodes and District Allotments A.	39, Cross st., Rhodes, Manchester.
Derby.....	6320	Derby and District Allotment A...	62, Statham-st., Derby
Staffs.	6321	Milton and District Workingmen's Club and Institute.	Market-street, Milton, Stoke-on-Trent.
Durham	6322	Hunwick Smallholding and Allotment A.	Church Institute, Hunwick, Willington, co. Durham.
Derby	6323	Firs and District Allotment A. ..	70, Moss-st., Derby.
Yorks.....	6324	Eccleshill and District Poultry Keepers.	21, Intake-rd., Fagley, Eccleshill, Br'dford
Brecon.....	6325	Builth Wells and District C.	5, Irfon-road, Builth Wells.
Middlesex	6326	Brentham Club and Institute	Brentham Institute, Meadvale-road, Ealing, W. 5.
Durham	6327	Sunderland and District Poultry A.	5, Frederick - street, Sunderland.
Warwick	6328	Coventry and District Poultry Keepers.	54, St. Michael's-row, Stoke, Coventry.
Warwick	6329	Rugby Garden Allotment Holders' A.	Wells-street, Rugby.
Yorks.....	6330	Whitwood Mere Potteries Allotment.	26, Pottery-st., Whitwood Mere, Castleford.
Yorks.	6331	New Scarborough and District Allotment Holders' A.	Homestead, Alverthorpe-road, Wakefield.
Yorks.....	6332	Horbury and District Allotment Holders' and Gardeners' A.	23, Parker-road, Horbury, Wakefield.
Glamorgan....	6333	Cornelly Allotment Holders	Llwynon, Maudlam, Pyle, Bridgend.
Durham	6334	Gateshead and District Allotment A.	West Field Hall, Alexandra-road, Gateshead.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
		ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>	
Essex	6335	Walthamstow Amalgamated Society of Engineers' Club and Institute.	182, Hoe-street, Walthamstow, E.17.
Gloucester	6336	Bristol and District Small-holdings and Allotments Federation.	17, Almorah - road, Victoria Park, Bedminster, Bristol.
Leicester	6337	Sileby and District Liberal Working Men's Club and Institute.	2, Barrow-rd., Sileby, Loughborough.
Lancs.....	6338	Liverpool Garden Suburb Horticultural and Allotments.	9, Nook Rise, Wavertree, Liverpool.
Warwick	6339	Curzon-street Station Dining and Supply Stores.	Curzon-street Station, Birmingham.
Lancs.....	6340	West Didsbury Allotments A. ...	5, Clarence - street, Manchester.
Northampton .	6341	Irthlingborough Permanent Allotment A.	14, College-street Irthlingborough, Wellingborough.
Essex	6342	Maldon and District Fishermen's C.	32, North-st., Maldon.
Merioneth	6243	Deudraeth C.	2, Griffin-terrace, Penrhyndeudraeth. Merioneth.
Glamorgan. ..	6344	Sketty Allotments.....	Hill House Estate, Sketty, Glamorgan.
Gloucester	6345	Avonmouth Garden Suburb ...	Penpole, Shirehampton, Bristol.
Dorset.....	6346	Weymouth and District Allotment Holders and Gardeners' A	8, Chelmsford-street, Weymouth.
Durham	6347	Pelaw and Bill Quay Allotments A.	69, York-st., Pelaw, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Glamorgan....	6348	Morriston Allotment	Brynafon, Pentrepeth, Morriston, Glamorgan.
Yorks.....	6349	Kiveton Park and District Garden Holders' A.	3, Wesley-rd., Kiveton Park, Sheffield.
Lancs.....	6350	Singleton Ploughing & Threshing.	Singleton, Grange, Poulton-le-Fylde, Preston.
Glamorgan ..	6351	Swansea Poultry Corn C.....	6, The Market, Swansea.
Yorks.....	6352	Rothwell District Gardening A...	8, Carlton-lane, Rothwell, Leeds.
Yorks.....	6353	Barugh Green Allotment	Spencer Arms, Barugh Green, Barnsley.
Glamorgan....	6354	Maesteg South Allotment	14, Maesteg - road, Cwmfelin, Maesteg, Bridgend.
Glamorgan....	6355	Bridgend Allotment A.....	1, Merthyr-mawr-road, Bridgend.
Yorks.....	6356	Streethouse and District Allotment Holders' A.	32, Common End, Streethouse, Pontefract.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Yorks.....	6357	Balne-lane Allotment	115, Lincoln - street, Wakefield.
Warwick.....	6358	Rugby Amalgamated Engineers' Club and Institute.	Club House, Newbold-road, Rugby.
Gloucester	6359	Hotwells and District Allotments A.	3, Rownham Cottages, Hotwells, Bristol.
Gloucester	6360	Staple Hill and District Allotments.	18, Seymour-road, Staple Hill, Bristol.
Yorks.....	6361	Wykeham and District Milk Producers.	Hill Farm, Wykeham, Yorks.
Surrey.....	6362	Caterham and District Allotments.	Lee Crofts, Caterham Valley, Surrey.
Hants.	6363	Milton and District Allotment Holders' A.	13, Broad-st., Southsea B.O., Portsmouth.
Glamorgan....	6364	Rhiwbina Horticultural and Allotments.	Estate Office, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.
Notts.	6365	Hucknall and District Smallholdings and Allotments.	8, The Limes, Butler's Hill, Hucknall, Nottingham
Warwick.....	6366	Warwickshire Fruit and Vegetable Collecting.	Room 43, 3, New-st., Birmingham.
Yorks.....	6367	Pudsey and District Smallholders.	29, Littlemoor - road, Pudsey, Leeds.
Yorks.....	6368	Bridlington and District Agricultural Trading	18, Quay-road, Bridlington.
Anglesey.....	6369	Llandegfan and District C.	Stores Hafod Lon, Llandegfan, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.
Staffs.	6370	South Wolverhampton Allotment Holders' A.	39, Bryne-road, Wolverhampton.
Yorks.....	6371	York and District Allotment A...	40, Lower Petergate, York.
Derby	6372	Littleover Food Production A. .	House of Horace Riley, Blagreaves Lane, Littleover, Derby.
Carmarthen ...	6373	Brynamman Agricultural and Allotment.	Balbania House, Cwmgarw-road, Brynamman, Carm.
Yorks.....	6374	Alverthorpe Hall Allotment Holders' A.	11, Batley-rd., Wakefield.
Glamorgan....	6375	Tondu, Aberkenfig and District Allotments A.	Cartref, Bryn - road, Tondu, Bridgend.
Monmouth ...	6376	Six Bells Workmen's Club and Institute.	51, Alexandra-rd., Six Bells, Abertillery, Monmouth.
Notts.	6377	Workshop and District Allotments A.	25, Overend - road Workshop.
Yorks.....	6378	Silsden Smallholders'	Liberal Club, Silsden, Keighley.
Surrey	6379	Mitcham - road Allotment Holders' C.	The Hut, Mitcham-road Allotments, Croydon.
Staffs.	6380	Leek Garden Allotment Holders' A.	24, Frith-street, Leek.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Glamorgan....	6381	Treorchy Allotment and Gardeners' A.	87, Tynybedw-st., Treorchy (Rhondda), Glamorgan.
Durham	6382	Stockton Allotment Holders' A...	Whittles Coal Warehouse, Kingston-st., Stockton-on-Tees.
Staffs.	6383	Longnor Allotment A.	The School, Longnor, Buxton.
Durham	6384	Dunston Gardeners	25 Market-lane, Dunston, Gateshead
Gloucester	6385	Avonmouth and Shirehampton Allotment Holders' A.	18, Davis-st., Avonmouth, Bristol.
London	6386	New Era Works	20 Larkhall Rise, Clapham, S.W. 4.
Yorks.	6387	Thornaby-on-Tees Amateur Gardeners' A.	11, Stainsby-street, Thornaby-on-Tees, Stockton-on-Tees.
Staffs.	6388	Dunstall Hill C. Allotment	2, Sherwood-street, Wolverhampton.
Yorks.	6389	Shipley and District Poultry Keepers' A.	18, Springswood-av., Shipley.
Durham	6390	East Howe Allotment	10, Pitt-street, East Howe, Ferry Hill, co. Durham.
Somerset	6391	Yeovil and District Allotment A...	51 Seaton rd., Yeovil.
Glamorgan....	6392	Whitchurch (Glam.) and District Agricultural C.	54, Tymawr-road, Llandaff North, Cardiff.
Gloucester	6393	West Bristol and District Allotments A.	9, Roslyn-road, Redland, Bristol.
Surrey.....	6394	Kingston and District C.	22, Chesham-road, Kingston-on-Thames.
Cornwall	6395	Gorran Haven Fishermen's C. ...	Almer House, Gorran Haven, Gorran, Cornwall.
Cornwall	6396	Cadgwith Fishermen's C.....	The Rectory, Ruan Minor, Cornwall.
Cornwall	6397	Coverack Fishermen's C.	The Hut, Coverack, Cornwall.
Salop	6398	South Shropshire Farmers	Brunslow, Lydbury North, Salop.
Northumbrlnd.	6399	Whitley Bay and District Unionist Club.	Whitley House, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
II.—SCOTLAND.			
Edinburgh or Midlothian.	578	Scottish Pig Trade Insurance	18, Duke-street, Edinburgh.
Argyle.....	579	Lismore Agricultural C.....	Salen, Lismore, Argyle.
Ross	580	Invergordon and District C.....	B.B Block, Admiralty Bar'ks, Inverg'don.
Orkney	581	South Pier Agricultural C.	Dale, Eday, Orkney.
Ross	582	Kincardine (Ross-shire) Agricul- tural C.	Kincardine, Ardgay, Ross-shire.
Banff	583	Ballindalloch Agricultural C.	Bellehiglash, Ballin- dalloch.
Aberdeen	584	New Machar Agricultural C.	The Hall, New Machar.
Ayr	585	Barr District Agricultural C.	Public Hall, Barr.
Aberdeen	586	Monymusk Agricultural C.	5, The Square, Mony- musk.
Banff	587	Balnemoon and Crannoch District Stock Breeding and Agricul- tural C.	Balnemoon, Grange by Keith.
Aberdeen	588	Kininmonth District Agricul- tural C.	Bogs, Kininmonth.
Perth	589	Auchterarder Food Producers' ..	Auchterarder, Perth.
Caithness	590	Bower Agricultural C.	Gillock, Bower, Caith- ness.
Banff	591	Drummuir and Glack Agricul- tural C.	Glack by Keith.
Elgin	592	Knockando Agricultural C.....	Roseville, Knockando.
Kincardine ..	593	Cookney Agricultural C.	Blackbuts, Muchalls, Stonehaven.
Banff	594	Vale of Fiddich and Auchindoun Agricultural C.	Auchindoun, Duff- town.
Shetland.....	595	Whiteness Agricultural C.	School House, White- ness.
Banff	596	Greeness Agricultural C.	Greeness, Cummines- town.
Aberdeen	597	Muchalls Golf and Sports Club ..	73, Crown-st., Aber- deen.
Argyle	598	Appin Agricultural C.	The School House, Appin.
Inverness	599	Paible Agricultural C.	Hastin, Bayhead, Lochmaddy, N.Uist
Argyle	600	Sunart Agricultural C.....	Anaheilt, Strontian.
Argyle	601	Iona Agricultural C.	Sligneach, Iona.
*Stirling.....	602	Kilsyth C.	Townhead-st., Kilsyth
Inverness	603	Gerinish C.	Gerinish, So.Uist.
Inverness	604	Feorlig and Balmeanach Rural C. Credit.	Feorlig, by Dunvegan, Skye.
Perth	605	Strathtay Farmers' Trading A. ..	Camserney Cottage, Aberfeldy.
Aberdeen ...	606	Lower Donside Horse-breeding ..	Blackburn, Kinellar.
Caithness	607	Dunbeath Agricultural C.	Knockally, Dunbeath.
Aberdeen	608	Old What and Dis (New Deer) Agricultural C.	Old What, New Deer, Aberdeen.

* This is an amalgamation of the Banton Co-operative Society Limited, Reg. No. 285 R, and the Kilsyth Co-operative Society Limited, Reg. No. 24 R.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
SCOTLAND— <i>con.</i>			
Inverness	609	Waternish and District Agricultural C.	Lochbay School, Waternish, Skye.
Inverness	610	Kirkhill Agricultural C.	Kirkhill, Inverness.
Inverness	611	Edinbane and District Agricultural C.	School, Edinbane, Skye.
Inverness	612	Dunvegan Agricultural C.	Reading Room, Dunvegan, Skye.
Caithness	613	Tain (Olrig) Agricultural C. ...	Tain (Olrig), Thurso.
Ross	614	Tarbat Agricultural C.	Balnabruach, Portmahomack.
Caithness	615	Murkle Agricultural C.	Murkle, Thurso.
Inverness	616	Kensaleyre Agricultural C.	Rhinetra, Kensaleyre, Portree, Skye.
Inverness	617	Staffin Agricultural C.	Schoolhouse, Staffin, by Portree.
Elgin	618	Dallas Agricultural C.	Manse, Dallas, Forres.
Elgin	619	Inchberry Agricultural C.	Council Chambers, Rothes.
Ross	620	Muir of Ord Agricultural C.	Parish Council Office, Muir of Ord.
Inverness	621	Struanmore Agricultural C.	Oze by Dunvegan.
Sutherland....	622	Tongue Agricultural C.	Hall, Tongue, Sutherland.
Inverness	623	Strond and Obbe Agricultural C..	School, Obbe, Harris.
Inverness	624	Stockinish Agricultural C.	School, Stockinish.
Inverness	625	Scalpay Island Agricultural C. ..	School, Scalpay, Harris.
Inverness	626	Skeabostbridge Agricultural C. .	Skeabostbridge, by Portree.
Ross	627	Lochalsh Agricultural C.	Durinish, Kyle.
Argyle	628	Coll Agricultural C.	Armagour, Coll.
Inverness	629	Kylis Scalpay Agricultural C....	Meeting House, Kylis Scalpay.
Aberdeen	630	Aberdeen Dairy and Central Milk Depôt	183a, Union - street, Aberdeen.
Aberdeen	631	Buchan Farmers' A.	Woodhead of Cairness, Rathen Statn.
Inverness	632	Nether Lochaber Agricultural C.	Cuildorag, Onish.
Ross	633	Garve Agricultural C.	Gorstan, Carve.
Sutherland ...	634	Rosehall Agricultural C.	Invernauld, Inver-shin.
Edinburgh or Midlothian	635	Broxburn Agricultural C.	Old Town Dairy, Broxburn.
Elgin	636	Dyke Agricultural C.	Schoolhouse, Dyke, Forres.
Ross	637	Contin Agricultural C.	Post Office, Contin, Strathpeffer.
Inverness	638	Kilmorack Agricultural C.	Kilmorack, Beaully.
Inverness ...	639	Sconser Rural C. Credit	10, Sconser, Portree, Skye.
Argyle	640	Kilchrenan and District Agricultural C.	Kilchrenan, Argyle.
Argyle	641	Lorn Agricultural C.	High Achaleven, Connell.

County.	No.	Name of Society	Registered Office.
SCOTLAND— <i>con.</i>			
Argyle.....	642	Loch Shiel C.	Moss, Acharacle, Argyle.
Elgin	643	Dunphail Agricultural C.....	Dhusach, Dunphail.
Inverness	644	Kildonan Agricultural C.....	Kildonan, Milton, South Uist.
†Aberdeen	645	Northern C.....	54, Loch-street, Aberdeen.

III.—IRELAND.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Down	1286	Bann C. Agricultural	Moneygore, Rathfriland.
Cavan	1287	Crosserlough C. Agricultural	Ballyjamesduff.
Mayo	1288	Knocksaxon C. Agricultural	Knocksaxon, Balla.
Tipperary ..	1289	Rear Cross C. Creamery	Rear Cross, Newport.
Tipperary	1290	Kilcommon C. Creamery	Kilcommon, Thurles.
Antrim	1291	B. B Farm C.	Forthill, Ballycarry.
Galway	1292	Kilreeel C. Agricultural	Kilreeel, Loughrea.
Mayo	1293	Irishtown C. Agricultural	Irishtown, Claremorris.
Monaghan	1294	Mulladuff C. Agricultural	Smithboro'.
Tyrone	1295	Camus C. Agricultural	Strabane.
Cork	1296	Freemount Dairy	Freemount, Charleville.
Meath	1297	Kilskyre C. Agricultural	Temperance Hall, Kilskyre Kells.
Sligo	1298	Ballyrush C. Agricultural	Ballyrush, Boyle.
Tipperary	1299	Ballycarron C. Creamery	Ballycarron, Dolla Nenagh.
Mayo	1300	Drummin C. Agricultural	Drummin, Westport.
Galway	1301	Ballingarry C. Agricultural	Ballingarry, Kilchreest, Loughrea.
Clare	1302	Kilshanny C. Agricultural	Kilshanny, Ennistymon.
Fermanagh ...	1303	Lisbellaw C. Stores	Lisbellaw.
Clare	1304	Carron and Noughaville C. Agricultural.	Carron, Kilnaboy, Kilkfenora.
Westmeath ...	1305	Tang C. Agricultural.....	Tang, Mullingar.
King's Co. ...	1306	Rahan C. Agricultural	Rahan, N.S., Tullamore.
Limerick	1307	Foynes C. Tillage	Foynes.
Leitrim	1308	Creevelea C. Creamery	Creevelea.
Leitrim	1309	Breffni C. Creamery	Dromahair.
Cork	1310	Whitechurch C. Agricultural	Farranastig, Whitechurch.
Tipperary	1311	Dunkerrin C. Agricultural	Dunkerrin, Roscrea.

† This is a conversion of a company registered under the Companies Acts.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
IRELAND—con.			
Fermanagh ...	1312	Belleek C. Agricultural & Dairy. (an amalgamation of No. 342 R. Fermanagh and 359 R. Fer- managh.)	Belleek.
Limerick	1313	Meanus C. Farm Implement	Meanus Kilmallock.
West Meath ..	1314	Coole C. Agricultural	Coole.
Waterford	1315	Crooke C. Agricultural	Passage East.
Cork	1316	Kilmurry C. Agricultural	Kilmurry, Lissarda.
Kilkenny	1317	Kilkenny C. Creamery	Thomas-st., Kilkenny
Mayo	1318	Erris C. Milling	Belmullet.
Cork	1319	Meelin C. Creamery	Meenygorman, Mee- lin, Newmarket.
Westmeath ..	1320	Ballymore C. Agricultural	Ballymore.
Limerick ...	1321	Ballingrane C. Agricultural	Cappagh, Ballingrane.
Kilkenny	1322	Slieverue C. Creamery	Rathpatrick Slieverue
Mayo	1323	Tample C. Agricultural	Tample, Charlestown.
Kilkenny	1324	Mullinavat C. Agricultural and Dairy (an amalgamation of No. 665 R. Kilkenny and 815 R. Kilkenny).	Mullinavat.
Limerick	1325	Knockaney C. Agricultural	Knockaney, Bruff.
Westmeath ..	1326	Turin C. Agricultural	Balrath Mill, Killucan
Antrim	1327	Lisburn Garden Plots A.	Castle-street, Lisburn
Mayo	1328	Moneen C. Agricultural	Moneen, Castlebar.
Tipperary ...	1329	Rathbrit C. Farm Implement....	Coolmoyn, Fethard.
West Meath ..	1330	Skeagh C. Agricultural	Milltown, N.S., Bally- nacargy.
Fermanagh ...	1331	Derryvellen C. Agricultural	Irvinestown.
Donegal	1332	Ballybofey and Stranorlar C. Agricultural.	Ballybofey.
Down	1333	Anahilt C. Flax	Magheraconluce, Hillsborough.
Mayo	1334	Geesala C. Milling & Agricultural.	Geesala, Ballina.
Down	1335	Draperhill C. Flax	Drumarood, Castle- wellen.
Cavan	1336	Shercock C. Agricultural	Shercock.
Cavan	1337	Lear C. Agricultural	Bailieborough.
Tipperary	1338	Clonmel C. Stores	9, Wolfe Tone-street, Clonmel.
Fermanagh ...	1339	Newtownbutler C. Agricultural..	Newtownbutler.
Wexford	1340	Castletalbot C. Agricultural	Blackwater.
Tipperary	1341	Slievardagh Farmers' C.	Ballingarry, Thurles.
Limerick	1342	Knocklong C. Agricultural	Knocklong.
Cork	1343	Kiskeam C. Creamery	Kiskeam, Banteer.
Cork	1344	Cullen C. Creamery	Cullen, Millstreet.
Waterford	1345	Waterford C.	43 Thomas - street, Waterford.
Tipperary	1346	Suir Valley Creameries A.	Killenaule, Thurles.
Down	1347	Drumgoland C. Flax and Agri- cultural.	Dechomet, Banbridge
Tyrone	1348	Omagh C. Flax and Agricultural.	Omagh.
Roscommon ..	1349	Athlone C. Industrial and Agri- cultural.	High-street, Athlone.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
IRELAND— <i>con.</i>			
Down	1350	Loughislandreavy C. Flax	Moneyscalp, Kilcoo.
Carlow	1351	Glynn (Co. Carlow) C. Threshing and Agricultural.	Glynn.
Mayo	1352	Louisburgh C. Agricultural	Louisburgh.
Down	1353	Kilmore C. Flax	Loughanisland, Clough.
Mayo	1354	Attycarra C. Agricultural	Carrowmore, Ballina
Down	1355	Silverford C. Flax	Loughbrickland, Banbridge.
Limerick	1356	Effin C. Milling	Ballyshonikin, Kil- mallock.
Mayo	1357	Belderrig C. Agricultural	Belderrig.
Mayo	1358	Crossboyne C. Agricultural	Crossboyne, Clare- morris.
Down	1359	Leitrim Farmers' C.	Leitrim, Banbridge.
Roscommon ..	1360	Creagh C. Agricultural	Killgorrive, Ballin- asloe.
Roscommon ..	1361	Killukin C. Agricultural	Grange, Tulsk.
Antrim	1362	North Antrim Agricultural A.	Church-st., Bally- money.

III.—LIST OF INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER DURING 1917.

(See Report 12, page 130.)

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

(a) Members. (b) Share Capital. (c) Total Assets.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
Yorks.....	80	Sowerby Bridge United District Flour, Walton-st., Sowerby Bridge.	Final winding up notice.
Yorks.....	526	Halifax Flour, Bailey Hall Mill, Halifax.	Final winding up notice.
Yorks.....	1633	Sheffield Cutlery C. Productive, Unity Works, Eldon-street, Sheffield.	Final winding up notice.
Cornwall.....	1810	Darite C., Darite, Saint Cleer, Liskeard.	Transferred engagements 993, Cornwall.
Warwick.....	2252	Birmingham I. C., High-street, Birmingham.	Amalgamated with 5064 Staffs., to form 6309 Warwick.
Kent	2475	Folkestone Trading Bank, 8, Dover-road, Folkestone.	Final winding up notice.
Yorks.....	2650	Colne Vale Corn Millers, Britannia Mills, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield.	Final winding up notice.
London	2681	College Buildings C., 266, Goswell-road, E.C. 1.	Converted to Co. Ltd.
Kent	2725	Cliffe-at-Hoo C. Store, Station-road, Cliffe-at-Hoo, Rochester.	Transferred engagements 2421, Kent.
Yorks.....	2922	Delph and District C. Woollen Manufacturing, Pingle Mill, Delph, Oldham.	Final winding up notice.
Leicester	3187	Hand-in-Hand Freehold L., Daisy Villa, Gipsy-lane, Belgrave, Leicester.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Derby	3794	White Lion Inn Loan, White Lion Inn, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
London	3805	Hunt and Chambers C. Boot and Clothing, 79, Hazelville-road, Hornsey, N.8.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
London	3829	West Southwark Liberal and Radical Club, 234, Union-street, Borough, S.E., 1.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Warwick	3830	Coventry Builders, 53, Springfield-road, Coventry.	Dissolved by Instrument (a) 12, (b) £134, (c) nil.
London	3994	Lewisham Progressive Club, Lanier-road, Hither Green-lane, Lewisham, S.E. 13.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Derby... ..	4018	Derby Umbrella Manufacturers, 318, Normanton-road, Derby.	Reg Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Lancs.	4155	Circle Homeland Colony, 29, Seedley Park-road, Seedley, Manchester.	Dissolved by Instrument (a) 20, (b) £226, (c) £370.
Cornwall	4205	Catchall Poultry, Catchall, St. Buryan, Cornwall.	Dissolved by Instrument (a) 22, (b) £18, (c) £31.
Northumbrlnd.	4227	Newcastle-upon-Tyne Coal Vendors A., 21, George's - road, Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Final winding up notice.
Lancs.	4389	Sovereign C. Provident, Midland Chambers, 29, Ranelagh-street, Liverpool.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Glamorgan....	4676	Cardiff Allotment and Smallholders, 8, Malefant-pl., Cardiff	Final winding up notice.
London	4761	Poplar Consitutional Club, 1, Newby-place, Poplar, E. 14.	Dissolved by Instrument (a) 14, (b) nil, (c) nil.
Northumbrlnd.	4855	Newcastle-on-Tyne Small Holdings, 2, Slatyford-lane, East Denton, Scotswood, Northumberland.	Reg Cancelled for default.
London	4991	Hammersmith Morris Memorial Hall, 33, Mall-road, Hammersmith, W. 6.	Final Winding-up Notice.
Durham	5027	Penshaw and District Working Men's Club and Institute, Penshaw House, Old Penshaw, Fence Houses.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Cheshire	5045	Higher Bebington Allotments A., Higher Bebington Schools, Higher Bebington, Birkenhead.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
London	5063	London Thrift A., 25, Parkhouse-st., Camberwell, S.E. 5.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Staffs.	5064	Moor Pool Supply A., 26, The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham.	Amalgamated with 2252 R. Warwick to form 6309 R. Warwick.
Glam.	5094	Swansea and District C. Coal Consumers and General Dealers, 5, Greenfield-terrace, Landore.	Dissolved by instrument (a) 15, (b) £15, (c) £15.
Warwick	5098	Federated Growers, Bank Chambers, 1, Bromsgrove-st., Birmingham.	Final Winding-up notice.
Warwick	5152	Shirley Allotments, Field View, Solihull-rd., Shirley, Birmingham.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Hants.....	5233	Cheriton and District Rural C., house of Mr. M. Tithecott, Lane End, Longwood, Winchester.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Cambs.	5246	Histon and Impington Smallholders' A., The Firs-road, Histon, Cambridge.	Dissolved by instrument, (a) 26, (b) £13, (c) £13.
Brecon.	5288	Crickhowell and District Farmers' C., 5, Standard-street, Crickhowell, Brecon.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Dorset.....	5296	Winterbourne Zelstone and District Agricultural C., Charnborough Park Estate Office, Morden, Wareham, Dorset.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Wilts.	5340	Corsham Agriculturalists, Hart-ham, Corsham, Wilts.	Amalgamated with 6041 R. Wilts to form 6294 R. Wilts.
Durham	5376	West Boldon Bank House Working-men's Social Club and Institute, Bank House, West Boldon, East Boldon, co. Durham.	Final winding up notice.
Kent	5387	Faversham Agricultural C., 71, West-street, Faversham, Kent	Dissolved by instrument, (a) 11, (b) £18, (c) £5.
Durham	5410	Shotton and District Workmen's Social Club and Institute, Old Shotton-lane, Shotton Colliery, Castle Eden, co. Durham.	Final winding up notice.
Wilts.	5414	Mere and District Egg and Poultry, Dewes House, Salisbury-street, Mere, Wilts.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Glamorgan....	5429	Merthyr C. Garden Village, 8, Brynmorlais, Penydarren, Glam	Final winding up notice.
Dorset.....	5433	West Moors & District Farmers' Club, The Homestead, Pinehurst-road, West Moors, Wimborne.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Glamorgan....	5452	Beehive C., 65, Hernon-rd., Caerau, Bridgend.	Dissolved by instrument (a) 36, (b) nil, (c) £8.
Middlesex	5474	Willesden and Harlesden Branch of British Socialist Party Working Men's Club and Institute, 84, Strode-road, Willesden Green, N.W. 10.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Anglesey.....	5482	Mona Bacon Factory and Farmers' A., Plas Llanfair Farm, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey.	Final winding up notice.
London	5498	Car Owners' Supply A., 121, Victoria-st., Westminster, S.W. 1.	Final winding up notice.
Warwick.....	5531	Walmley and District Allotments and Smallholdings A., Birch Holme, Walmley-rd., Walmley, Birmingham.	Dissolved by instrument (a) 25, (b) £5, (c) nil.
London	5540	Haggerston Conservative and Unionist Club, 258, Kingsland-road, E. 2.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Derby	5577	Risley C. Smallholders, The Depôt, Risley, Derby.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Somerset ...	5661	North Somerset Agricultural C. A., 24, Radstock-rd., Midsomer Norton, Bath.	Transferred engagements 5005 R. Wilts
Mon.	5719	Caerwent and District Agricultural C., New House Farm, Caerwent, Chepstow.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Lancs.	5732	Skelmersdale Farmers' Trading, 9, Liverpool-road, Skelmersdale, Lancs.	Transferred engagements 3983 R. Lancs
Cornwall.	5839	Penzance and District Growers' A., Boscathnoe Heamoor, Penzance.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No funds.
Cha'nel Islands	5861	Forward C., The Bridge, S. Sampsons, Guernsey.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Durham	5873	Dorman's Social Club Club House, Lanchester Durham.	Dissolved by Instrument (a) 132, (b) £16 (c) £8.
Northumbrlnd.	5902	Avenue Social Club, 3, Second-avenue, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Final winding up notice.
Lancs	5903	Preston Shoe and Slipper Makers, Atlantean Works, Grimshawstreet, Preston.	Final winding up notice
Glamorgan....	5927	Labour Pioneer Press, Williams-square, Glebeland-st., Merthyr Tydvil.	Transferred engagements National Labour Press Ltd. (Co. No. 1062£3 Lancs)
London	5940	Public Service A., 43, Aldwych, W.C. 2.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
London	5986	Battersea Labour C. Bakery, 381, Battersea Park-road, S.W. 11.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Hants.	6007	Mid Hants. Egg Depôt, 82, Hyde-street, Winchester.	Transferred engagements 4475 R. Hants.
London	6037	Agricultural Produce Supplies, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tot-hill-st., Westminster, S W. 1.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Assets and liabilities taken over by Army Canteen Committee
Staffs	6038	Harborne Tenants' Investment, Moorpool, Harborne, Birmingham.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Wilts.	6041	Atworth and District Agricultural C., Hulberts, Atworth Melksham.	Amalgamated with 5340 R. Wilts to form 6294 R. Wilts.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
II.—SCOTLAND.			
Stirling	285	Banton C., Banton-by-Castlecarry.	Amalgamated with Kilsyth C.
Aberdeen	369	Sunnybank Rink, 25, Union-st., Aberdeen.	Final notice of windingup received
Elgin	356	Forres and District Farmers' A., Muirside, Brodie.	Final notice of windingup received
Fife	227	Gallatown C., 40, Rosslyn-street, Kirkaldy.	Final notice of windingup received
Perth	304	Aberfoyle and District C., Trosachs-gate, Aberfoyle.	Final notice of windingup received
Argyle	427	Taynuilt Agricultural C., Taynuilt, Argyle.	Cancelled by Registrar
Banff.	599	Morange Farmers' Supply A., Mains of Morange, Ballindalloch.	Cancelled by Registrar
Inverness	491	Nunton C., Machdar, Benbecula South Uist.	Cancelled by Registrar
Orkney	391	Equitable Agricultural C., East End, St. Margaret's, Hope.	Cancelled by Registrar
Ayr	530	Ardeer Garden Village, Estate Office, Garvin-rd., Stevenston.	Cancelled by request.
Orkney	415	Firth and District C., Burnside, Firth.	Cancelled by request.
III.—IRELAND.			
Waterford	113	Ballinamult C. Dairy, Ballinamult.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Galway	319	Carraroe C. Home Industries, Rathmullen.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Down	460	Loughbrickland C. Agricultural and Dairy, Loughbrickland, Banbridge.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Down	617	Upper Iveagh C. Agricultural, Loughbrickland, Banbridge.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Wicklow	775	Bray C. Art Furniture Supply, Bray.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Longford	848	Longford C. Poultry, Longford.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Dublin	858	Gas Corporation of Ireland, 1, Poolbeg-st., Dublin.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Cork	884	Burnfoot C. Poultry, Burnfoot.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Donegal	950	Lower Rosses C. Agricultural, Inniscoo, Burtonport. Letterkenny.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Kerry	977	Portmagee C. Agricultural, Portmagee, Cahirciveen.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Dublin	1010	Dublin Brush Workers' Manufacturing, 13, Westmoreland-st., Dublin.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Galway	1141	Castleblakney C. Farm Implement, Castleblakney, Woodlawn.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).
Antrim	1194	Millbrook C., The Stores, Millbrook, Larne.	Reg. Canold. (ceased).

County .	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
IRELAND— <i>con.</i>			
Louth	1140	Kilanny C. Farm Implement, Killanny.	Instrum't of Dissolution; 11 Members, no assets, no liabilities
Antrim	1132	Ballyclug Stockbreeders' C., Crebilly, Ballymena.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Armagh	554	Tassagh C. Agricultural & Dairy, Tassagh.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Armagh	590	Mullabawn C. Home Industries, Mullabawn, Forkhill, Dundalk.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Armagh	802	Shelagh C. Agricultural, Shelagh..	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Cavan	534	Bogaskey C. Agricultural and Dairy, Bogaskey.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Cavan	540	Raven's Rock C. Agricultural and Dairy, Raven's Rock.	Registry .. Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Cavan	652	Maghera C. Agricultural and Dairy, Carriga Bruise National School, Virginia.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Clare	835	Drumcharley C. Agricultural, Drumcharley Tulla.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Cork	368	Horn Hill C. Agricultural and Dairy, Horn Hill, Lissarda.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Donegal	810	Stranorlar C. Flax, Stranorlar ...	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Down	541	Newry Agricultural, 44, Hill-st. Newry.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Dublin	857	City of Dublin Working Men's C., 10, Wellington Quay, Dublin.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Galway	214	Clonkeen-Kerril C. Agricultural and Dairy, Gurteen, Ballinasloe.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Galway	228	Beagh C. Agricultural and Dairy, Gort.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Galway	261	Caltra C. Agricultural and Dairy, Caltra, Ballinasloe.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Galway	901	Kilchrist C. Agricultural, Kilchrist, Loughrea.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Galway	1142	Tiernascragh C. Farm Implement, Old Longford, Ballycrissane, Ballinasloe.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Kilkenny	993	Urlingford Working-men's Trade and Labour Association, Johnstown.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Kilkenny . . .	1177	Brandon Vale C. Creamery, Graigue- uenamanagh, Borris.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Leitrim	932	Ballinamore (New) C. Creamery, Ballinamore.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Limerick	1163	Ballygoughlan C. Creamery, Ballygoughlan, Glin.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Londonderry ..	272	Lissan C. Agricultural and Dairy, Lissan, Cookstown.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Londonderry ..	385	Desertmartin C. Poultry, Desertmartin.	Registry .. Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Longford	131	Longford C. Agricultural and Dairy, Longford.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
IRELAND— <i>con.</i>			
Longford	865	Glenlough C. Agricultural, Lissanure Mills, Edgworthstown.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Longford	1002	Tarmonbarry C. Dairy, Tarmonbarry.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Mayo	291	Hollymount C. Agricultural and Dairy, Hollymount.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Mayo	344	Kilfian C. Agricultural and Dairy, Kilfian.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Mayo	350	Lackan C. Agricultural and Dairy, Lackan, Kilalla, Ballina.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Mayo	749	Ballina Agricultural and Industrial, Ballina.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Monaghan	992	Latton C. Creamery, Corracharra, N.S., Shercock, Carrickmacross.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Roscommon ..	240	Boyle C. Agricultural and Dairy, Boyle.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Roscommon ..	423	Knockcroghery C. Agricultural and Dairy, Knockcroghery.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Roscommon ..	962	Kilmore, Aughrim, and Killucan C. Dairy, Kilbride, Kilmore, Drumsna.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Tipperary	129	Two Mile Borris C. Agricultural and Dairy, Two Mile Borris, Thurles.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Tipperary	1155	Slievardagh Motor Transit, Mullinahone.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Tyrone	675	Lissan C. Home Industries, Lissan, Cookstown.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Waterford	1133	Dungarvan C. Agricultural, Dungarvan.	Registry Cancelled (Default A.R., 1914)
Cork	925	Clonakilty C. Agricultural, Clonakilty.	Registry Cancelled (ceased to exist).
Dublin	960	Irish C. Shipowners, 151, Thomasstreet, Dublin.	Registry Cancelled (ceased to exist).
Leitrim	616	Mohill C. Agricultural and Dairy, Mohill.	Registry Cancelled (ceased to exist).
Cork	300	Mossgrove C. Agricultural and Dairy, Mossgrove, Bandon.	Reg. Cancelled by request.
Kerry	966	Waterville C. Agricultural, Waterville.	Reg. Cancelled by request.
Monaghan	483	Ballytrain C. Agricultural and Dairy, Ballytrain.	Reg. Cancelled by request.
Down	494	Strangford C. A. and D., Strangford, Downpatrick.	Reg. Cancelled by request.
Wicklow	591	Donard C. Home Industries, Donard.	Reg. Cancelled by request.
Leitrim	208	Dromahair C. Agricultural and Dairy, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim.	Return of Final Winding up Meeting, F. 35, received.
Queen's Co. ..	875	Durrow Improvement, Durrow.	Registry Cancelled (ceased).
Kerry	1221	Kerry C. Agricultural, Law Chambers, Tralee.	Registry Cancelled (ceased).

IV.—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

(See Report 20, page 136.)

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

(a) Statistics *re* Examinations.

	Session 1916/17.	Session 1915/16.
Number of Entries for Examinations, excluding Junior and Intermediate Examinations in Co-operation	929	1,185
Number of Passes :—		
With Distinction	131	229
Without Distinction	297	461
Number of Failures	501	495

(b) Certificates Issued.

JUNIOR CLASSES IN CO-OPERATION.

Session.	Merit Certificate.	Attendance Certificate.
1916-17.....	3,864	4,435
1915-16.....	4,883	5,260

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

“Lives of Great Men and Women.”

Session.	Prize.	Pass.
1916-17.....	30	157
1915-16.....	34	160

ADULT CLASSES.

	1917.	1916.
Co-operation.....	130	213
Industrial History	47	32
Citizenship	12	—
Economics	16	15
Economics of Co-operation	11	5
Co-operative Book-keeping	153	281
Secretaries	4	7
Auditing	2	8

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATES.

	1917.	1916.
Apprentices	47	91
Salesmen	3	6
General Managers	3	4
Honours	—	2

SUMMARY *re* CERTIFICATES ISSUED.

	Session 1916/17.	Session 1915/16.
Junior Certificates.....	8,299	10,143
Intermediate	187	193
Adult Classes in Co-operation & Kindred Subjects	375	561
Management	53	103
	8,914	11,000

(c) Grants and Prizes.**JUNIOR CLASSES.**

	Session 1916/17.				Session 1915/16.		
Local Examinations:—	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Section I.	25	0	0	....	23	0	0
Section II.	18	12	6	....	18	10	0
Section III. (Co-operative Union)	11	5	0	....	11	7	6
Re-examination of Best Papers	1	0	0	....	1	0	0
	£55	17	6	....	£53	17	6

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

	Session 1916/17.				Session 1915/16.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Grants	1	0	0	....	1	15	0
Re-examination	3	0	0	....	3	0	0
	£4	0	0	....	£4	15	0

ADULT CLASSES.

	Session 1916/17.				Session 1915/16.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Grants	29	5	0	....	35	15	0
Prizes	6	17	0	....	8	12	6
	£36	2	0	....	£44	7	6

(d) Co-operative Union Summer School Scholarships.

Scholarships, enabling adult students to attend any of the Summer Schools for Co-operators, held during 1917, were awarded to the following students:—

Subject.	Name.	Town.
Co-operation	T. Hughes	Abercynon.
"	A. J. Tapping	Derby.
"	(Miss) F. Whittle	Liverpool.
* "	W. McAlpine	Bonnyrigg.
"	W. J. Morris	Aberdare.
Industrial History	(Mrs.) W. T. Davis	Abbey Wood.
Citizenship	W. T. Davis	Abbey Wood.
* Economics.....	R. D. French	Edinburgh.
Economics of Co-operation..	(Mrs.) A. J. Harriden ..	Reigate.
* Co-operative Book-keeping..	.....

* Scholarship held over.

BLANDFORD SCHOLARSHIPS.

The two scholarships of the value of £10 each, awarded in open competition in the subject of Co-operation (Third Stage), were won by Mr. W. J. Downie (Wishaw) and Mr. W. J. Maxwell Brown (Paisley). Mr. Downie elected to spend his scholarship in attending the Bradley Court Summer School and in the purchase of books. Mr. Maxwell Brown undertook a tour of visits to Co-operative Centres in England, and also attended the Bradley Court School.

REPORT FOR SESSION 1917-18.

(a) CLASSES FORMED.

	Session 1917-18.	Session 1916-17.	Increase.	Decrease.
Co-operation—Junior Grade Class..	350	348	2	—
Intermediate Grade Classes—				
(a) Biographical ("Lives of Great Men and Women")	8	27	—	19
(b) History and Principles of Co-operation ("The Story Re-told")	30	—	30	—
Co-operation—Adult	26	25	1	—
Industrial History	11	13	—	2
Citizenship	7	3	4	—
Economics	3	5	—	2
Economics of Co-operation	1	2	—	1
Co-operative Control of Raw Materials	1	1	—	—
Co-operation and Social Problems	1	0	1	—
Co-operative Problems	1	0	1	—
Welfare of the Group.....	1	0	1	—
Co-operative Book-keeping	41	57	—	16
Co-operative Management:—				
Apprentices and Junior Em- ployés	12	10	2	—
Salesmen (Correspondence) ..	1	2	—	1
General Managers (Corre- spondence)	1	1	—	—
Honours (Correspondence)....	1	1	—	—
Training Course for Secretaries (Correspondence).....	1	1	—	—
Training Course for Auditors (Correspondence).....	1	1	—	—
Classes for Women Co-operators:—				
England and Wales	37	24	13	—
Scotland	12	7	5	—
Ireland	3	3	—	—
	550	531		
Total, Session 1917-18	550	Classes.		
Total, Session 1916-17	531	"		
Increase.....	19	Classes.		

(b) STUDENTS ENROLLED.

	Session 1917-18.	Session 1916-17.	Increase.	Decrease.
Co-operation—Junior Grade Classes	15037 ..	14616 ..	421 ..	—
Intermediate Grade Classes—				
(a) Biographical ("Lives of Great Men and Women")	142 ..	516 ..	—	374
(b) History and Principles of Co-operation ("The Story Re-told")	1447 ..	—	1447 ..	—
Co-operation—Adult	381 ..	357 ..	24 ..	—
Industrial History	209 ..	244 ..	—	35
Citizenship	97 ..	40 ..	57 ..	—
Economics	33 ..	100 ..	—	67
Economics of Co-operation	13 ..	30 ..	—	17
Co-operative Control of Raw Materials	5 ..	4 ..	1 ..	—
Co-operation and Social Problems	5 ..	—	5 ..	—
Co-operative Problems	1 ..	—	1 ..	—
Welfare of the Group.....	5 ..	—	5 ..	—
Co-operative Book-keeping	994 ..	1097 ..	—	103
Co-operative Management:—				
Apprentice and Junior Em- ployees	331 ..	148 ..	183 ..	—
Salesmen	9 ..	18 ..	—	9
General Managers	4 ..	7 ..	—	3
Honours	2 ..	—	2 ..	—
Training Course for Secretaries ..	12 ..	25 ..	—	13
Training Course for Auditors	7 ..	8 ..	—	1
Classes for Women Co-operators..	1765 ..	1022 ..	743 ..	—
	20499	16232		
Total Number of Students: Session 1917-18			20499	
Total Number of Students: Session 1916-17			18232	
Increase.....			2267	

STUDENTS ENTERED FOR EXAMINATION.

	1918.	1917.
Co-operation—Juniors: Sec. III. (Written)	2052	2186
" " Sec. II. (Local)	2190	3133
" " Sec. I. (Local)	3614	4080
Intermediate Classes (Course A, 250 ; Course B, 872)..	1122	340
Co-operation—Adults.....	205	252
Industrial History	77	132

	1918.	1917.
Citizenship	33	22
Economics	13	27
Economics of Co-operation	10	14
Co-operative Book-keeping	557	784
Training Centres for Co-operative Employés—Apprentices and Junior Employés—Part I.	44	3
„ II.	124	91
Salesmen	7	11
General Managers	3	7
Honours	2	—
Training Course for Co-operative Secretaries	6	6
Training Course for Auditors	14	10

The papers returned were as follows:—

Co-operation—Adults	127	165
Industrial History.....	42	57
Citizenship	21	14
Economics	8	16
Economics of Co-operation.....	9	11
Co-operative Book-keeping	387	557
Training Centres for Co-operative Employés—Apprentices and Junior Employés—Part II.	86	75
Salesmen.....	6	11
General Managers.....	3	6
Honours	2	—
Training Centre for Secretaries	6	6
Training Centre for Auditors	14	10
Junior Classes in Co-operation—		
Re-examination of Best Papers	99	96
Intermediate Classes—		
Re-examination of Best Papers	24	38

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEN'S GUILD.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1918.

CENTRAL COUNCIL.

President: W. R. RAE (Chairman, Central Education Committee).

Chairman: W. H. WATKINS (Plymouth).

F. A. GIBBINS (Brighton), A. HOLLANDS (Willesden), C. F. HOUSEMAN (Liverpool),

J. MARSDEN (Leeds) deceased, A. PARK (Faiilsworth), J. PENNY (Sheffield),

C. H. RUSSELL (Birkenhead), H. SKEELS (Walsall),

A. J. TAPPING (Derby),

R. WEARE (Birkenhead), F. WHITTAKER (Bolton), J. T. WOOD (Bradford).

Joint { W. CHAS. POTTER, 61, Ingleby Road, Ilford, London, E.

Secretaries: { C. E. WOOD, Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

We very much regret to have to report that during the year one of the Central Council (Mr. Marsden, of Leeds) has passed away. Mr. Marsden took an earnest interest in the work of the Central Council, and his suggestions were always of a helpful and hopeful character. The Central Council, in your name, sent an expression of sympathy to Mr. Marsden's relatives in their sad bereavement. We are sure that you will endorse our action.

The Council decided that an election should be held to fill the unexpired time of Mr. Marsden's term of office. Mr. H. Skeels, of Walsall, was elected to the vacancy. We ask your approval of this, and recommend that this action be taken as a precedent.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

For the fourth year in succession we find ourselves expressing the hope that the war will soon be over. As each year has come we have felt more sure, if possible, that the war **MUST** end in that year. Human endurance seemed to have been tried to the utmost. But the tragedy still moves slowly, albeit surely, to its close. The long-drawn-out struggle must be urged as the reason why the Guild has not made so much progress this year as in preceding years. There are now 106 branches, with 3,580 members. This represents an increase of eight branches and 580 members during the year, which is the smallest annual increase on record. In regard to the membership, it should be stated that the numbers given are nominal rather than actual, as many of our members are serving with the Colours. To all so serving, fraternal wishes for their welfare go steadily out from their fellow-members at home, with the ardent desire that they may be protected and find succour in the hour of their need, and eventually come safely back to the congenial pursuits of peace.

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

The work of the District Councils has been a pleasing feature during the year, on account of the keenness and efficiency by which it has been characterised. The branches are rallying round the District Councils, and by so doing are diminishing, perhaps, any tendency towards dwindling local enthusiasm. No new district council has been formed during the year, but all have more branches affiliated to them than last year.

London.—The District Council has been chiefly engaged upon the work of improving its organisation. London is so vast and covers such a wide area that it is difficult for work to be done from one centre unless its financial and other resources are adequate. District organisation is being tried, but up to the present it has not proved entirely successful. A very successful week-end school was held in the summer, however, the subject of study being "The Co-ordination of the Educational Forces in London." A very representative gathering attended the lectures, and the Men's Guild can certainly claim to have taken their part in so stimulating educational opinion that as a result an educational scheme for London as a whole will be laid before

Congress. During the latter part of the year the Council has been interesting itself in the political situation created by the Swansea Congress resolutions. Important developments are expected early in the new year as the outcome thereof.

Manchester.—The District Council has had rather a quiet year. The activities of many of the members have been engaged with the Manchester Co-operative Defence Association. Several branches have joined the Council, and they report that they are "carrying on" in the strong hope that the machinery will be in good working order when the great war is over and members come back eager once more to undertake the work of Peace.

Mersey District.—No less than four week-end schools have been carried through under the auspices of this Council in the district. The secretary reports that all were well attended, that great interest was taken in the subjects chosen, and that "the speakers—Messrs. Citrine, Rae, Watkins, Penny, Clayton, and Lucas—did credit to our selection and to themselves."

In addition to this work, monthly rambles have been organised during the summer months, and, generally, every effort has been made to encourage the branches to keep going until the coming of better times.

Midland District.—Quite a resuscitation of life and activity has taken place in and around Birmingham during the year. The District Council is now full of energy and vigour. Branches have been visited in turn, and the Council has been instrumental in starting several new branches. A particularly useful effort may be mentioned. In the little village of Pelsall, in the Black Country, where there is not even a picture palace to cheer the long winter evenings, a branch of the Men's Guild was started. It is now running a series of Saturday evening concerts. These concerts have proved highly successful and been much appreciated by the people of the village, and form a striking example of what a little co-operative initiative can do.

Scottish District.—Our Scottish friends are perhaps the most vigorous in extending the operations and influence of the Men's Guild. There are now 29 branches affiliated to the Scottish Council. They have the gift of organisation, and hence the conferences called by them have been large. They discussed many urgent co-operative questions during the past year. One of these conferences was arranged under the joint auspices of the Scottish Sectional Board, the Scottish Wholesale Society, and the National Guild. The subjects chosen were "The Need for an Educated and Organised Democracy" and "The Place therein of the Men's Guild." They were introduced and spoken to by Messrs. W. H. Watkins and W. Chas. Potter. The chairman of the Scottish Wholesale Society (Mr. R. Stewart) presided, and was supported by other members of the Wholesale Committee. At the close of the conference, which was held in the Wholesale Society's Hall, the delegates attending were most hospitably entertained by the Wholesale Society. From what has been already said it will be evident that the Council's relations with the Scottish Sectional Board and the Scottish Wholesale Society are most cordial and helpful. The Council have been busy framing proposals to reform the con-

stitution of the National Guild, as will be seen by reference to the agenda for the annual meeting.

Yorkshire District.—In Yorkshire, several successful conferences have been organised by the District Council. Besides endeavouring to establish new branches, the Council has been earnestly considering the relation of the co-operative movement to politics. The Men's Guild in Yorkshire are of opinion that a great people's party, consisting of the co-operative movement, the trade union movement, and associations of workers generally, should be formed, to insist upon the democratic control of all the means of life. We expect our Yorkshire colleagues to be in the van of co-operative progress when the times are more propitious and advance becomes possible.

WORK IN THE BRANCHES.

As stated above, the branches in the main have been simply "keeping together" until the return of normal times. Yet, considering the conditions prevailing, some branches have been remarkably successful in developing their work and increasing their membership. A firm note of optimism prevails in all the reports sent in this year. Besides the useful work of lectures in co-operative and kindred subjects, and the holding of whist drives and socials, many branches have specialised in particular directions. The Swindon Branch, for instance, has called no fewer than three meetings of local co-operators, with a view to the amalgamation of the societies in the neighbourhood. The local secretary reports that amalgamation is distinctly nearer realisation through this action on the part of the Guild than it otherwise would have been. One branch—Harbourne—has an allotments section. Forty plots have been rented already, and, according to the report, the cry is for land—and still more land.

PAMPHLETS.

Only one new paper has been published by the National Council during the year. It is entitled "How to Run a Successful Branch," and was written by Mr. P. F. Masters, secretary of the London District Council. It has been well received, and will undoubtedly prove very useful, not only to new branches, but to branches that have been established for some time. Two other pamphlets are in print: "Poverty and the Land Problem" by Mr. Bagot, of Plymouth, and "Co-operative Insurance," by Mr. J. Penny. These will be issued at an early date, and will be useful in forming co-operative opinion on these important matters.

MONTHLY LETTERS.

As a substitute, to some extent, for the usual issue of pamphlets—which has been necessarily curtailed owing to the difficulties of supply and printing—the Central Council have issued monthly letters on current topics to the branches. These have undoubtedly proved useful and stimulating. In respect to them, many congratulatory references have been received at the Central Office from branch secretaries. Many branches now set aside an evening to

discuss these letters, and we would strongly urge all branches to follow this practice. By this means a certain amount of unity of opinion will be obtained throughout the whole Guild upon current topics. The letters, so far, have dealt with Amalgamation and Overlapping, Voting at Co-operative Wholesale Society meetings, Direct Representation in Parliament for Co-operators (two letters), and Food Vigilance Committees.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PRESS.

We again express our best thanks to the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator* for the publication of the monthly and other notes on Guild work, and also to editors of the local *Wheatsheafs* and magazines for mention of branch engagements and reports.

FINANCE.

It is desired that attention may be given to the financial statement issued with this Report. It will be noticed that many branches are in arrears with their subscriptions, and we trust that this intimation will be sufficient to hurry up those branches that have not fulfilled all their obligations to the national movement.

On the side of finance, special mention must be made of the assistance rendered to the Guild by the continuation of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's grant. Without such assistance, in these days of increased railway fares and generally advanced prices, organising work in particular would be rendered exceedingly difficult, if not impossible.

IN CONCLUSION.

Generally, we may say that the future is one of great hope for the Men's Guild. Reports from all over the country come to hand testifying to the usefulness of the Guild and the part it will play in the co-operative movement in the future. We need not dwell upon the great educational asset that a well-organised Guild branch is to a society, but now that the movement has decided to take an active part in politics we do say that the Men's Guild must necessarily become an even more important and useful organisation. In our monthly letter for October last it was asserted that elections could only be won by strenuous thinking, hard work, and efficient organisation. Mere talk would be of little use. Prestwich has proved the truth of that assertion. Sympathetic speeches alone never have, and never will, win elections. If the co-operative movement hopes to gain recognition and a place in the councils of the nation it must do as other organisations have done, viz., work, educate, and organise.

For these purposes, the Women's as well as the Men's Guild should be fully utilised. There are no other bodies that have the necessary ENTHUSIASM for and KNOWLEDGE of what are in reality the aims of co-operation or possessing equal POTENTIAL CAPACITY for carrying on election work. The sooner our Parliamentary leaders appreciate this fact, the sooner shall we be getting some tangible results. Space precludes us from developing the

argument, but fellowship, comradeship, and unity of ideals—all of them things found and developed in the Guilds—are absolutely essential to electoral success. It is easy to imagine that the older political parties are run on the Church and The Trade on the one hand, and Nonconformity and Temperance on the other; but a little examination will reveal the fact that a great deal of enthusiasm for ideals is always aroused at election times. This enthusiasm we shall not get out of a defence of the “divi,” but we shall get it if we adopt and remember the Guild’s motto—the establishment of a Co-operative Commonwealth, and the Guild motto: “Co-operation for all Purposes of Life.”

W. H. WATKINS, Chairman.

W. CHAS. POTTER, } Joint
C. E. WOOD, } Secretaries.

V.—SUMMARISED REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILDS.

I.—ENGLAND.

SUMMARISED REPORT, MARCH, 1917—MARCH, 1918.

(See Report 53, page 316.)

Central Committee.

Mrs. Booth (president).	Mrs. Butler.
„ Nevitt (vice-president).	„ Daymond.
„ Hood (treasurer).	„ Wilkin.
Miss Llewelyn Davies (general secretary).	„ Williams.

Number of Members—April, 1917 27,060.

„ „ Branches „ „ 630.

(It should be noted that the figures in this report refer to April, 1917.)

The difficulties arising from the war have continued during the year, and have been increased both by the rise in the cost of fares, printing, &c., and by the food difficulties, which have largely added to the home work of married women.

Notwithstanding, the work of the guild has been well maintained, and the branches have shown great keenness in carrying out its educational and practical campaigns.

SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

Nearly every district has held at least one two days' school, and many have organised several schools lasting either one or two days. The subjects taken by these schools, by sectional and district speakers at branches, have included the following :—“Co-operative Democracy,” “Co-operative Propa-

ganda," "Co-operation and Taxation," "Co-operation and International Life," "The Co-operative Commonwealth: How Women's Votes can Help to Build It," "The National Care of Maternity," "Labour During and After the War." In addition, classes for presidents and secretaries have been held throughout the guild, and branches requiring the subjects have had speakers on "Cash Trading," "Abolition of Entrance Fees," and "Sick Room Appliances."

ALL-COUNCILS CONFERENCE.

A conference of all the guild sectional councils was held in January, 1918, at which very valuable discussions took place on the organisation and development of sectional work, on questions of guild policy, and on the new co-operative political situation.

CO-OPERATION AND POLITICAL ACTION.

The most remarkable events of the year have been the decision of the co-operative movement to seek Parliamentary representation and the enfranchisement of women. The coincidence of the two events has increased the importance of both. The enfranchisement of married women has given the vote to practically all women co-operators, and has thus greatly strengthened the political force of the co-operative movement, while the political action of co-operators provides an organisation specially suitable to the needs of married women.

The desirability of enlisting the active help of the organised women of the movement was recognised by the inclusion of one representative each from the English and Scottish Guilds in the Central Parliamentary Representation Committee set up by the Emergency Conference in London. But the fact that so few women delegates were appointed to this conference indicated that their importance as future co-operative voters was still far from being appreciated. The few women delegates present showed their keenness by the active part taken in the discussions.

The guild was most desirous of promptly answering to the responsibility placed on it by the conference by providing trained workers and speakers. The formation of such a band of workers would have been the most effective way of helping forward the work of local councils in organising the women voters.

The guild's representative on the Central Parliamentary Representation Committee submitted a scheme for such training to that committee early last January, at an estimated cost of £500. The scheme was specially adapted to the guild organisation, and could have been largely carried through in three or four months. But after the scheme had been sent up to the United Board difficulties arose. The United Board's view of the matter is that they "approved in general the main outlines of the scheme, but did not approve of the Women's Guild undertaking the work alone on behalf of its members." In our view the proposal was that the scheme was part of the Parliamentary Representation Committee's work, this committee delegating its carrying out to the guild, after the whole scheme had been submitted and approved. Any

arrangements as regards the carrying out could have been made by the Parliamentary Representation Committee. But the United Board dissociated the work from the Parliamentary Representation Committee and directed the setting up of another committee, which was to be formed of six representatives of the Central Education Committee, three of the English Women's Guild, two of the Scottish, and one of the Irish, and this committee was to prepare a scheme of training and propaganda for all co-operative women. The Central Committee decided to await the decision of the Central Parliamentary Representation Committee, but sent three representatives to the first meeting of the proposed joint committee on the understanding that it was not thereby committed to acceptance of the committee. At this meeting the committee decided that the scheme should be made applicable to all co-operators, men as well as women. It will be seen that the difference of opinion as regards what body should undertake political training and propaganda has had the unfortunate result of delaying the effective training of the organised women of the movement, which might have begun last January. Meanwhile the guild has arranged to go forward with training its own members through its regular conferences and meetings. Although severely handicapped by lack of funds, at the date of writing about 100 schools, conferences, classes, or meetings have been arranged or are in prospect.

A paper specially suited to co-operative women voters was written by the general secretary for the Parliamentary Representation Committee.

REPORT OF THE SURVEY COMMITTEE.

The guild has continued during the year to oppose the proposals for subordinating auxiliary bodies like the guild to the Central Board and to call attention to the need for more democratic reforms in the constitution of the Co-operative Union than are put forward by the Survey Committee.

The chief constitutional point on which they have desired to concentrate attention is to the need for the adoption of the principle of direct election from societies of the Co-operative Union Executive (which would replace the United Board) and of the Central Education Committee, instead of the present indirect methods of appointment by the Central Board. Deputations on these and other points were kindly received by the Joint Committee of London co-operative societies and by the Manchester Defence Committee.

THE NATIONAL CARE OF MATERNITY.

An attempt was made in the National Health Insurance Bill, 1917, to institute a marriage dowry of £2 to be paid to women leaving insurance on marriage, in place of paying the money as an additional maternity benefit or in times of sickness or unemployment after marriage. Although the guild was unsuccessful in getting the question raised in the House of Commons, owing to the way in which the Bill was rushed through, the matter was taken up in the House of Lords. Strong support of the guild's attitude was given in the Press of all parties, and the objectionable marriage dowry clause was withdrawn. In its place a clause was inserted by which women leaving

insurance on marriage are assured of full maternity benefit for the first child born within two years of marriage, with certain other benefits for one year. Thus a sum of about £250,000 a year was saved for the care of maternity.

In view of the necessity of co-ordinating and increasing the powers of the Local Government Board and local authorities with regard to the care of maternity, the guild has strongly supported the formation of a Ministry of Health, with a special maternity department, largely staffed by women. A deputation of seven guild members was received by the President of the Local Government Board, Lord Rhondda, in May, 1917. A memorandum with a summarised report of the speeches was afterwards issued and circulated to health authorities and others throughout the country. The Co-operative Parliamentary Committee passed a resolution supporting the proposals.

A further deputation from the Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, to which the Guild is affiliated, was received by Mr. Hayes Fisher, who succeeded Lord Rhondda at the Local Government Board. The deputation made an appeal that the disputes between Government departments should be ended, and that the Local Government Board should support the formation of a Ministry of Health, based on the Public Health Services, including National Health Insurance as an integral part, and entirely dissociated from the poor law. A deputation also waited on the County Councils Association.

The special fund for this work has been most kindly assisted by a grant of £50 from the Hodgson Pratt Memorial Fund, for which the guild desires to express its heartiest thanks. £15. 9s. has been raised by the booksellers' profits and royalty on the sale of "Maternity: Letters from Working Women," now in its third edition.

FOOD CONTROL.

Guildswomen have realised in the most practical way the serious results of the refusal of Government Departments to make full use of the experience and machinery of the co-operative movement in connection with food control and distribution, as they are the food providers, and have suffered through queues, &c., from the shortage of supplies and bad distribution. Guild conferences passed resolutions calling for the resignation of Lord Devonport and a strong resolution urging the Government to prevent profiteering and give adequate representation to co-operators on all food control committees was passed by the Guild Annual Congress at Torquay.

When food control committees were appointed, the Central Committee sent a circular to their branches urging them to try to secure representation on food control committees, and over 200 guildswomen have been appointed on them.

The Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations was asked to appoint three representatives on the Consumers' Council in January, 1918. The guild nominated Mrs. Councillor Cottrell (Birmingham), who was one of the three appointed.

CO-OPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL LIFE.

Many branches have had speakers on this subject, and a special point has been made of explaining the proposals for a League of Nations.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF INDUSTRIAL WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

This committee has continued its work, and is now recognised by many Government Departments as the body to approach in order to secure representation of working women's organisations on public committees.

Two conferences have been arranged, one on questions relating to wage-earning women and one on the League of Nations. At the latter, the large majority attending were guildswomen.

The joint committee has pressed actively for reforms in the condition of women workers on the land, and one result has been that the minimum wage for women agricultural labourers has been raised to £1 a week.

A memorandum on the Ministry of Health was issued by and circulated to a large number of organisations.

A protest has been sent to the Labour Party against the action of the Army authorities with regard to "tolerated houses" in France, and the request made that the Labour Party should take action in the matter.

REPRESENTATION OF GUILDSWOMEN IN THE MOVEMENT.

There are now two women on the Central Board (out of 70 members), one in the Southern and one in the South-Western Section.

Mrs. Cottrell (Midland Section) and Miss Oliver (North-Western Section) stood for the Central Board, but were not elected. Mrs. Barton stood for the Newspaper Board, but was not elected.

In April, 1917, there were 136 women on the management committees of 88 societies and 469 women on educational committees of 191 societies.

REPRESENTATION OF GUILDSWOMEN ON PUBLIC BODIES AND COMMITTEES.

One guildswoman sits on the Consumers' Council, and over 200 sit on food control committees. The representation of women on other public committees in April, 1917, is given as follows:—

Mrs. Cottrell is a member of Birmingham City Council; 75 guildswomen sit on public health maternity committees in 45 towns; 131 guildswomen sit on 90 local insurance committees; 15 guildswomen sit on higher education committees in 14 towns; 56 guildswomen are poor law guardians; 24 guildswomen are assessors to munitions tribunals; 125 guildswomen sit on 106 naval and military pensions committees, including those in London boroughs.

GUILD ANNUAL CONGRESS.

The annual Congress was held at Torquay. Although the heavy cost of fares reduced the number of delegates, the discussions at the Congress were on a high level. Resolutions were passed supporting co-operative political action and advocating that a working basis should be found with other Labour forces; welcoming the Russian revolution; supporting cash trading and national co-operative propaganda; asking for a Ministry of Health, extension of the powers of local authorities for the care of maternity

and a public health maternity allowance for mothers; urging the need for higher wages; opposing the Survey Committee's proposals *re* the constitution of the Co-operative Union and auxiliary bodies; protesting against (a) the unfair imposition of the excess profits tax on co-operative societies, (b) the rise in food prices and methods of the Food Controller, (c) the Criminal Law Amendment Bill; demanding municipal housing schemes and the taxation of land values.

MRS. JONES GUILD CONVALESCENT FUND.

The receipts in 1917 were £223. 9s. 10½d., and the expenditure £161. 16s. 4½d. The number of convalescents sent away was 77, a decrease of 24 on the preceding year.

FUNDS.

The guild desires to express its heartiest thanks to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for their grant of £150, and to the numerous societies which most kindly gave donations amounting to over £200 to the Guild Central Fund.

The question of renewing the grant to the guild was raised at the Central Board meeting at Swansea, but was passed over on the ground that the guild had not applied. The Central Committee therefore decided to ask that it should be given on the same lines as before 1914, that is, unconditionally. This application was dealt with at the Central Board meeting on 16th October, and the following letter was received from the general secretary of the Co-operative Union:—

"I am sorry that I omitted to notify you officially that the Central Board, at its meeting on the 16th instant, decided to make the grant to the Women's Co-operative Guild on the same conditions as the grants made to the other guilds in Scotland and Ireland.

"I shall be prepared to send on cheque for this amount any time on hearing from you."

This letter required an acceptance in writing of conditions which were not explained. The Central Committee therefore wrote as follows:—

"Thank you for your letter about the grant to the guild. Would you kindly let me know if the conditions to which you refer would limit our freedom of action? I need not say how anxious we are to secure a harmonious agreement with the Board, but, you will understand, we could not come to a decision without knowing clearly what the position is."

Mr. Whitehead, in reply, said:

"As regards the question of the grant to the guild, I would refer you to the resolution of the Central Board passed at Dublin Congress, which reads as follows: 'That in future the women's guilds be requested not to take up any work disapproved of by the United Board.'"

It will be clearly seen, therefore, that in order to receive the grant we had to give a written acceptance of the original condition which our annual Congress have repeatedly refused to accept. Under these circumstances, the Central Committee had no choice but to point out they could not take the

grant. They decided to suggest as a compromise that the immediate needs of the situation should be taken into account, and a special grant should be made to the guild for the new political work.

They asked that this new application should be brought before the United Board at its meeting on the 24th of November, but the only reply received was that the United Board had no power to alter the decision of the Central Board.

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions to Central Fund.....		413	12	1
„ Self-government Fund.....		44	0	6
„ Donation from Co-operative Wholesale Society.....		150	0	0
„ Donations from Societies.....		181	0	6
„ Donations to Sectional Schools.....		4	11	6
„ Repaid from Annual Congress Fund.....		28	0	0
„ Sale of Papers.....		33	18	1
„ „ Badges.....		0	15	0
„ „ Cards of Membership.....		10	0	6
„ „ Business Books.....		7	18	5
„ Donations from Miss Kidd.....		9	5	3
„ Loan for Business Books (Balance not repaid).....		29	9	7
„ Insurance Rebate.....		0	16	8
„ Dividend and Interest.....		9	3	0
„ Sundry Receipts.....		5	5	6½
		<u>£927 16 7½</u>		

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
By Deficit on Central Fund.....		32	13	10½
„ Postage, Telegrams, and Parcels.....	£44 5 6			
„ Stationery.....	18 8 1			
„ Printing.....	75 15 11			
„ Central Committee—Fares, Meals, Lodging, and Postage.....	56 11 6½			
„ Speakers' Expenses.....	10 10 7			
„ Representatives' Expenses.....	36 12 9½			
„ Pamphlets.....	38 16 3½			
„ Grants to Sections.....	159 1 10			
„ Honorariums to Sectional Secretaries.....	49 10 0			
„ Sectional Conferences—Speakers.....	19 12 7½			
„ Grants to Districts.....	26 15 0			
„ Office Expenses—Rent.....	50 0 0			
„ „ Cleaning, Light, Fire, &c.....	30 1 4½			
„ Clerks.....	120 4 3			
„ National Health Insurance.....	1 1 0			
„ Two Days Schools—Lectures.....	8 5 3			
„ Donations from Self-government Fund.....	6 1 0			
„ Annual Congress—Part Printing.....	17 6 6			
„ „ Postage.....	7 9 11½			
„ „ District Representatives.....	7 8 9			
„ Subscription to International Co-operative Alliance.....	2 2 0			
„ „ Joint Committee Industrial Women's Organisations.....	3 3 0			
„ Delegates' Fees.....	0 11 6			
„ Telephone.....	1 10 8			
„ Auditor.....	1 1 0			
„ Bank Commission and Cheque Book.....	1 2 5			
„ Sundries.....	0 8 3			
„ Loan for Business Books repaid.....	£9 5 8			
„ „ Balance owing.....	29 9 7			
		<u>38 15 3</u>		
		882 12 4		
„ Balance, Central Fund, 31st December, 1917.....		62 10 5		
		<u>£927 16 7½</u>		

Audited and found correct—

6th April, 1918. A. E. NEWMAN, Public Auditor,
99, Leaman Street, London, E.1.

II.—SCOTLAND.

The Central Council has again much pleasure in submitting for consideration the annual report and balance sheet.

We are coming to the end of what has been a sad and anxious year, a time of sorrow and depression, and yet, through all the sadness, our association has been more prosperous than ever.

A number of new branches have been opened, and a few have been resuscitated. The total number of branches is 211. With an increase of 2,414, the total membership is 17,385.

The branches' record of work done is exceptionally high, and all have been working in one way or another for the soldiers. The Convalescent Homes come in for a big share, and the Veterans' Association is not forgotten.

We regret to report that, through ill-health, our esteemed general secretary, Mrs. Lamont, was forced to resign. The Central Council sent out an appeal to the branches and societies in connection with our movement to award a testimonial to Mrs. Lamont, and this met with a liberal response. The presentation of same was made by Mrs. Tulloch (president of the guild), in Abbotsview Home, Galashiels, on 8th March, 1918.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting was held at Greenock, on 19th May, 1917, at which Mrs. Tulloch presided and delivered the presidential address, dealing with the work which the guild has carried out during the past twelve months, and appealing to the branches to work as vigorously as possible during the coming year.

At this meeting the elections took place and the report and balance sheet were adopted. A resolution was agreed to unanimously, calling upon the Government to give facilities for, or to bring in themselves, a Bill empowering women to act as law agents in Scotland; and it was decided not to send a representative to the English Women's Guild Congress on account of the expense.

The rules of the guild were amended, and subjects of importance were further discussed, amongst which may be mentioned "Maternity and Child Welfare," "Excess Profits and Income Tax," and "Pensions to Soldiers and Sailors."

Two meetings had been held with the sectional secretaries and presidents. These conferences are very important, reports of work done and suggestions for the future are submitted and considered. Consideration is given also as to how the guild can help to finance the convalescent homes, and how best the co-operative movement may be assisted, and also the organisation of the co-operative vote.

The classes for women which have been formed under the auspices of the Co-operative Union are as follows:—

Glasgow (Southern Section)	Mr. W. Reid.
Glasgow (Northern Section)	Mr. W. Low.
Edinburgh	Mrs. Lamont.

Leith	Mr. J. Cairns.
Dunfermline	Mr. J. T. Pye.
Ayr	Mr. P. Malcolm.
Alloa	Mr. J. Bayne.
Perth	Mr. J. Muir.
Aberdeen	Miss Taylor.
Clydebank	Mrs. Buchan.
Coatbridge	Mrs. Tulloch.
Hamilton	Mrs. Tulloch.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD BALANCE SHEET, 1917-18.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance, as per last Report.....	43	1 6	By Audit Expenses	1	17 4
" Grant from Co-operative Union.....	175	0 0	" Grants to Sections	57	0 0
" " U.C.B.S. Ltd.....	15	0 0	" Line for Convalescent Home ..	1	15 0
" " S.C.W.S. Ltd.....	25	0 0	" Ten Conference Subscriptions ..	1	7 6
" " Hamilton Baking			" Secretary's Salary	16	17 6
" " Society Ltd.....	1	0 0	" President's Salary	6	0 0
" " Co-operative News-			" Treasurer's Salary	7	0 0
" " paper Society Ltd..	2	2 0	" Central Council Expenses	89	17 7½
" Branch Fees from last year	1	1 9	" " Delegations	36	8 1
" Badges	3	5 6	" Conferences with Sections	11	7 4
" Song Books.....	1	6 8	" Printing	62	6 3
" Literature	0	10 11	" Postages	11	12 8
" Printing (Section I.)	4	15 6	" Special Meeting Expenses	2	17 4
" " (Section II.)—Last year.	3	7 10	" Subscription to Veterans' Associa-		
" " (Section II.).....	4	15 2	" " tion.....	1	1 0
" " (Section III.)—Last year	0	11 0	" " National Vigilance		
" " (Section III.).....	3	11 6	" " Association	0	5 0
" " (Section VI.)	3	18 5	" " S.C. Women's		
" " (Section VII.)	3	18 6	" " Trades	0	5 0
" Branch Subscriptions	68	10 1	" " Ambulance Centre	0	5 0
" Bank Interest	1	14 0	" " Womens' Suffrage	0	5 0
" Interest on Share in Co-operator			" Delegate's Fee to Housing Con-		
" Newspaper Society.....	0	1 0	" ference	0	2 0
" Delegate's Expenses to			" Delegate's Expenses to Veterans'		
" C.P.R.C.refunded. £32 0 4½			" Meeting	0	12 10
" Printing, Stationery,			" Lecturer's Fee at Annual Meeting	1	1 0
" and Postage re			" Gratuities	4	17 1
" C.P.R.C.refunded.. 2 3 7			" Literature	1	16 8
	34	3 11½	" Insurance Premium	2	0 0
			" Song Books	3	9 0
			" Copies Report of Lo don Con-		
			" ference	0	1 0
			" Delegates Expenses to C.P.R.C....	32	0 4½
			" Shares—		
			" Co-operative Convales-		
			" cent Homes Ltd..... £3 0 0		
			" Co-operative Newspaper		
			" Society Ltd.	1	8 4
			" Cash in Bank	32	6 11½
			" Cash on hand	5	5 6
				42	0 9½
	£396	8 4½		£396	8 4½

Glasgow, 13th March, 1918.—Examined and found correct.

JAMES TRAINER,
ELIZABETH THOMSON, } Auditors.

III.—IRELAND.

The Executive Committee of the Irish Co-operative Women's Guild have pleasure in submitting the annual report and financial statement for the year ending 1st March, 1918.

During the past year every effort has been made to strengthen the position of the guild as a national co-operative organisation. It has been very uphill work for some of our branches to keep going, and the difficulties of propaganda are, at the present time, greater than at any other period of our history; but where it has been found impossible to do much more than "mark time" we have been endeavouring to prepare for future developments. As a result of war conditions, two of our branches in the extreme south—Cork and Queenstown—have ceased to exist. Newtownards Branch has also fallen out of the ranks. Efforts were made to open new branches at Dublin, Inchicore, and Ballinamallard, but so far without success. Nevertheless, we are numerically stronger than last year, and we anticipate greatly increased activity in the future. During the year all the branches (with the exception of Rosslare Harbour) were visited by executive members. Belfast, Lisburn, and Bangor branches show an increase in membership, and the interest in guild work at these centres has been well maintained.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The tenth annual meeting was held at Portadown. Mrs. A. C. Husband (president of the Irish Guild) occupied the chair, and delivered the presidential address. A thoughtful paper on "The Need for Co-operative Education" was read by Mrs. Johnson (Belfast). The following resolutions (all of which were passed unanimously) were included in the agenda:—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

That this meeting expresses its unanimous approval of the extension of the Registration of Midwives Act to Ireland, and calls upon the authorities to put into operation immediately the Bill drafted by the Local Government Board in conjunction with the medical profession. We also urge that maternity and child welfare centres be established without delay; and in the national interest we demand that the Provision of Meals Act and the medical inspection of school children be made operative in Ireland at the earliest possible moment."

THE PEOPLE'S FOOD.

That in view of the statement by the Government that with care and economy on the part of everyone famine may be averted, we feel it is imperative that local authorities should take a hand in the organisation and distribution of food supplies, and that working-class organisations should set up food vigilance committees to make the views and needs of consumers more effectively heard. We call upon local authorities in Ireland to adopt and

administer such schemes, and request that the Irish Co-operative Guild have representation on all such committees."

INCOME TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS.

That this meeting of women co-operators protests emphatically against the suggested levy of income tax upon dividends on purchases and the imposition of excess profits duty.

CONFERENCES, &C.

An interesting conference of branch presidents and secretaries was held in Belfast last September, followed in the evening by a social gathering, at which the president of the guild, Mrs. A. C. Husband, was presented with a badge of office and a gold wristlet watch; and the vice-president, Miss Dorman, was also made the recipient of a gold watch in appreciation of her services to the guild.

A very successful two days' school was held in February at Belfast. Mrs. Blair (Liverpool) conducted same, and we are hoping that much good will accrue from this venture—the first of the kind in Ireland. The first day was devoted to classes for officials, and on the second day the subjects dealt with were "The Co-operative Control of Industry" and "Co-operation and the War."

CLASSES FOR WOMEN.

In conjunction with the Central Education Committee of the Co-operative Union, three classes are being conducted—at Dublin, Enniskillen, and Belfast. All have been well attended and much appreciated by the students.

THE YOUNG CO-OPERATOR.

Young people's circles and junior guilds are being conducted in Belfast and Dublin with marked success. We hope that in the very near future educational committees will take up the work of the formation of juvenile classes, in addition to what is already being done along these lines.

REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES, &C.

One of our executive members is on the management committee of the Dublin Society, and two members of the guild are on the committee of the Ballymena Society. We regret that representation on the Belfast Board of Management was lost during the past year, and up to the time of writing the position has not been regained; but the return of an additional woman representative (making three in all) to the Belfast Educational Committee somewhat compensates. There are evidences of an awakened interest amongst our members regarding the working of their own societies and the movement in general.

JOINT ACTION WITH OTHER BODIES.

We combined with other organisations in getting up a meeting for Judge Neil (U.S.A.), at which he explained the working of the scheme for mothers'

VI.—THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

(See Report 54, page 316.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FOR 1915, 1916, AND 1917.

Country.	Subscriptions and Donations for 1915.	Subscriptions and Donations for 1916.	Subscriptions and Donations for 1917.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Argentina	1 16 0	1 4 0	1 16 0
Austria .....	....	....	....
Hungary .....	....	....	....
Belgium .....	....	....	....
Bulgaria .....	....	....	....
Canada	0 12 0	....	5 12 0
Cyprus	1 0 0	1 0 0	....
Denmark	30 9 4	30 0 0	33 14 9
Finland	38 4 0	48 2 0	57 2 0
France	*151 0 3	77 19 0	88 2 11
Germany .....	....	....	....
India .....	....	....	....
Italy	18 7 8	16 14 0	15 18 4
Japan	*1 4 0	0 12 0	0 12 0
Netherlands	28 12 6	28 12 4	13 18 0
Norway	14 16 0	9 17 3	9 5 0
Roumania	2 7 5	....	....
Russia	16 0 5	27 10 6	12 7 2
Servia	10 0 0	....	....
Spain	5 10 11	5 0 0	....
Sweden	31 4 0	30 12 0	30 1 0
Switzerland	96 3 1	96 13 4	111 8 6
United Kingdom ..	674 19 2	670 16 6	739 8 6
United States	0 6 0	0 6 0	2 6 0
Total	£1122 12 9	£1044 18 11	£1121 12 2

* Subscriptions, 1914 and 1915.

BANK ACCOUNT.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
To Balances	1815 17 2	By Withdrawals	1074 18 0
„ Cash Deposits	1236 11 9	„ Commission and Charges	0 16 0
„ Interest—Current Account	£6 15 8	„ Balances—	
„ „ Deposit Account	65 5 10	Current Account	£544 5 10
	72 1 6	Deposit Account	1504 10 8
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£3124 10 6		2048 16 6
	<hr/>		<hr/>
			£3124 10 6

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Accounts owing—		By Office Furniture—Estimated	50 0 0
Rent	51 19 8	„ Subscriptions outstanding	33 0 0
<i>Bulletin</i> —		„ Stock of Publications	15 0 0
French	£48 0 0	„ Cash in Bank	£2048 16 6
English	11 5 7	„ „ Hand	12 0 0
	<u>59 5 7</u>		<u>2060 16 6</u>
	111 5 3		
„ Balance of Assets over Liabilities	2047 11 3		<u>£2158 16 6</u>
	<u>£2158 16 6</u>		

I have carefully examined the Books and Accounts of the International Co-operative Alliance for the year ending 31st December, 1917, and hereby certify the above statement as correct.

July, 1918.

N. H. COOPER,
PUBLIC AUDITOR.

Reports of the Sections and District Associations.

(1) IRELAND.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTIONAL BOARD AND OF THE IRISH CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

(a) THE SECTIONAL BOARD.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting of the Congress year held at Belfast on 9th June, viz. :—

<i>Chairman</i>	Mr. W. J. McGuffin.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. H. Archer.
<i>Secretary</i> (till 1st August)	Mr. R. Fleming.
„ (from 1st August)	Mr. W. M. Knox.
<i>Representatives on Central Board—</i>	
	Messrs. W. J. McGuffin and J. Palmer.
<i>Representative on United Board and Office Committee—</i>	
	Mr. W. J. McGuffin.
„ <i>Central Education Committee.</i>	Mr. H. Archer.
<i>Editor of "Wheatsheaf" (Irish issue)</i>	Mr. W. M. Knox.

Eleven meetings were held during the year with attendances as under, viz. :—

	Present.	Absent.
Mr. J. Adams	6	5
Mr. H. Archer	7	4
Mr. W. Gray	10	1
Mr. R. Fleming	9	2
Mr. W. G. Kane	11	—
Mr. W. J. McGuffin	11	—
Mr. J. Palmer	10	1

Shortly after the commencement of the Congress year the Board were faced with the difficulties of the situation created by the election of Mr. Fleming to the directorate of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and whilst the Board congratulated him on his election it was with regret that they accepted his resignation of the position of secretary to the Board and propagandist agent in Ireland. Mr. Fleming has filled these positions since 1909, and has been of great service to the co-operative movement in Ireland, both organising new societies and in

guiding and advising most of the societies already in existence. Being a public auditor, he also audited the accounts of the majority of the Irish distributive societies—a most valuable work in helping and strengthening many of the smaller societies.

The United Board, on the recommendation of the Office Committee, offered the position vacated by Mr. Fleming to Mr. W. M. Knox, educational secretary of Belfast Society, by whom it was accepted as from 1st August, and an arrangement was made for clerical assistance and the securing of an office for the work of the Sectional Board at 18, Frederick Street, Belfast.

During the year new societies were registered at Athlone, Clonmel, and Waterford. All have started in business about the beginning of 1918, with fair prospects of success, notwithstanding many difficulties with regard to supplies of goods, particularly sugar, which none of them could get until the card scheme came into force.

Two of the societies registered in 1916—Clan William (Tipperary) and Tralee—have not succeeded in getting a start made in business, and in both cases the share capital collected is being retained in bank in view of the possibility of more favourable circumstances arising.

Visits have been paid to Londonderry, where a provisional committee has made fair progress in collecting share capital. The promoters of the proposed society have agreed to apply for registration and continue for a time canvassing for members with the hope of a better prospect of making a successful start after some time.

In Limerick, a provisional committee, representative of various trades, has been at work and visits have been made to advise them. The project is being taken up enthusiastically by the various trade societies, and a representative meeting of the promoters is being organised to consider the question of registration, and whether an immediate start in business should be made.

In addition to the above-mentioned places society or public meetings have been attended and addressed by the propagandist agent and members of the Board at Ballymena, Cork, Drumreany, Dublin, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Lucan, Queenstown, and Sligo. Keen interest in the movement continues to be manifested all over the country and inquiries have been received from Waterville (Co. Kerry), Navan, Drogheda, and Galway, which are receiving attention. The very serious handicaps which the Control regulations impose on new societies make it a very serious undertaking to start in business. Warrenpoint and Drumreaney societies having opened in 1916 were unable to get any supplies of sugar for their members, and are only now coming in for a supply through the operation of the Card Distribution scheme. In spite of this severe drawback, both societies have come through the past year very well. The Sectional Board has been unremitting in its efforts on behalf of the societies under the varying difficulties arising through the Control regulations.

Monthly reports are submitted by the secretary to the Sectional Board of the organising, propaganda, and auditing work. The latter involves visiting societies all over Ireland, and necessarily occupies a good deal of time. The

accounts of the following societies have been audited during the year, viz., Armagh, Ballymena, City of Cork, Coalisland, Dublin Industrial, Dublin University, Dungannon, Drumaness, Drumreany, Enniskillen, Greenore, Inchicore, Larne, Lucan, Middletown, Newtownards, Ochilmore, Queenstown, Renvyle, Sligo, Warrenpoint, Rosslare Harbour, and South Co. Dublin. The fees for this work are credited to the Union and amounted to £121. 16s. for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

Arrangements are being made for the holding of the first Irish Summe School at Larne, Co. Antrim, from the 6th to the 20th July next (both dates inclusive), under the auspices of the Central Education Committee and the Irish Section.

Subjoined is a statement of Board expenses charged to the Union during 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance in hand	10	0 0	By Executive Meetings	36	17 8
„ Cash from Central Office.....	79	6 9	„ Conferences and Deputations....	34	0 7
			„ General Printing	8	8 11
			„ Balance in hand	10	0 0
	£89	6 9		£89	6 9

(b) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

(Northern and Southern Districts.)

A Southern District Conference was held on the premises of the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, Dublin, on 18th April. Mr. May's paper on "Income Tax" was considered and a resolution was adopted protesting against the "profits" of co-operative societies being made assessable to Income Tax. A resolution in favour of farming being undertaken by distributive societies as a method of regulating the supply and prices of foodstuffs and raw materials was adopted after a warm discussion on the respective merits of the agricultural and distributive methods of dealing with land problems.

A conference of the Northern District was held at Lisburn on 19th May when a paper was read by Mr. T. R. Johnson, on "The Situation in Ireland with respect to Food Production and the Relationship of the Consumer thereto." The discussion was very interesting and the paper was afterwards published, and has since aroused much interest throughout the country. A resolution was adopted in favour of farming by distributive societies either individually or through their federations.

The annual joint conference of both districts was held in Dublin on 1st September, when Mr. Amos Mann, of Leicester, introduced the Survey Committee's report to last Congress, dealing with questions of capital and educational matters. The various suggestions of the report were received sympathetically, and most of them with hearty support of the delegates.

A conference of managers, secretaries, and committee-men was held in the Northern District at Belfast, on 28th March. A very practical paper on "Salesmanship" was read by Mr. H. Ingram (Drapery Department, Belfast Society). The discussion on the paper was keen, pointed, and helpful.

(2) MIDLAND SECTION.

The attendances of the members of the Board have been as below :—

	Present.	Absent.	Possible.
Mr. G. Bastard.....	9	1	10
Mr. J. Butcher.....	9	*1	10
Mr. S. Butler	8	*2	10
Mr. W. J. Douse	10	—	10
Mr. G. Harris	10	—	10
Mr. A. H. Jones .	9	1	10
Mr. J. Langley.....	10	—	10
Mr. W. Millerchip	9	1	10
Mr. J. Millington	9	1	10
Mr. C. A. W. Saxton	10	—	10
Mr. J. G. Shacklock.....	9	1	10

* Sick.

Honorary Members.

Mr. E. L. Griffiths. Mr. D. McInnes. Mr. W. W. Smith.
Mr. G. Woodhouse. Mr. S. Redfern.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting, held at Nottingham, on 2nd June, 1917:—

Chairman : Mr. J. Butcher.

Treasurer : Mr. W. J. Douse. *Secretary* : Mr. Chas. A. W. Saxton.

Representatives—

On the United Board.....Messrs. G. Bastard and J. G. Shacklock.

„ *Office Committee*..... Mr. G. Bastard.

„ *Educational Committee* Mr. J. Butcher.

„ *Joint Propaganda Committee*..... Mr. S. Butler.

On Sectional Choral Association Committee..... Mr. W. J. Douse.

„ *Educational Association Committee* ... Mr. G. Harris.

„ *Propaganda Committee* Messrs. G. Bastard, W. Douse, S. Butler, and C. A. W. Saxton.

The following will show the position of the movement at the end of 1917, as compared with the figures for 1916.

	1916.	1917.
No. of Societies	213	Figures for 1917
No. of Members	483,001	will be inserted
Share Capital	£6,080,229	after Congress in
Sales	£15,529,303	Report issued to
Net Surplus.....	£1,622,107	Societies.
Reserve Fund	£483,696	..

Despite the critical period through which we are passing, the difficulty in obtaining supplies through a world shortage of the necessities of life, together with the lack of efficient national control and distribution of what is obtainable, and an equitable system of rationing, the co-operative movement has more than held its own in the Midland Section during the past year—economically, educationally and socially.

The Sectional Board has kept in close touch with the work of the several Conference District and Educational Associations, as well as the Women's and and Men's Guilds.

Notwithstanding the restricted railway service, Sectional, District, Educational Association and Guild Conferences have been held as usual.

The Sectional Choral Association was also able to hold its annual festival.

A feature of the year's work has been the holding of week-end schools; the one at Woodbrooke Settlement, Bournville, near Birmingham, organised by the Educational Association in conjunction with the Central Education Committee and the Sectional Board, proved a great success.

SECTIONAL CONFERENCES.

The first series of three conferences was held on 27th October. The report of the Survey Committee, as presented to Swansea Congress, provided the subject for discussion. Professor F. Hall, M.A., B.Com., introduced the subject at Wolverhampton, Mr. W. Millerchip, J.P., at Kettering, and Mr. J. Pollitt, at Grantham. Lively interest was taken in the various proposals contained in the Report, and at each meeting emphasis was laid on the necessity for a co-operative "daily" paper, more especially in view of taking political action.

The second series was held on 26th January, 1918, when a paper was submitted, entitled "Farming by Distributive Co-operative Societies," especially prepared by Mr. D. McInnes, J.P., at the request of the Central Board, and in pursuance of a resolution passed at Swansea Congress.

That this Congress considers it advisable in the interests of the consumer that farming be undertaken by distributive societies, either individually or in federation, as a means of controlling prices of foodstuffs and raw materials.

Mr. McInnes read his paper at Peterborough, Mr. Bastard at Stafford, and Mr. Millington at Coventry.

Great interest was taken in the subject under consideration, and a very useful and informing discussion followed the reading of the paper, and doubtless

will have some effect on those societies that have recently purchased farm land or are about to add agriculture to their many other co-operative operations.

In addition to the conferences named, a Joint Conference was held in conjunction with the Educational Committees' Association and the Central Education Committee in connection with the week-end school held at Woodbrooke Settlement, Bournville. Here Mr. W. Millerchip, J.P., introduced the subject for discussion, viz., "Educational Reconstruction," and moved the Congress resolution thereon as adopted at Swansea. A good discussion ensued and the resolution was carried unanimously.

All the conferences have been well attended, which is considered very satisfactory under the restricted railway service,

PROPAGANDA.

Although hampered by the knowledge that societies have a difficulty in making provision for existing membership and, therefore, not over anxious for large increases in this direction, the Sectional Propaganda Committee, through the District Representatives and Educational Committees, with the financial assistance of the Joint Propaganda Committee, have done some good work. During the summer months open-air meetings were organised with much success, particularly in the Derby district, and during the winter mainly in the Shropshire and Mid-Wales district, although to a lesser extent in most of the other districts some good work has been accomplished.

The main object of the Propaganda Committee has been to bring home to the existing membership the value of co-operation to the nation in general and to themselves in particular during the trying times through which we are passing, and to point out to them the important part co-operation should play in the reconstruction when the war is ended.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION.

Since Swansea Congress approved the principle of Direct Representation in Parliament and on Local Administrative Bodies, and the Special Emergency Conference in London adopted the scheme there propounded, much activity and unanimity has prevailed in the section; the services of members of the Board have been in great request at members' meetings, and societies have adopted the scheme and paid their contributions on the basis laid down; it is hoped, subject to the approval of the Central Committee, to run several candidates for Parliamentary honours.

INCOME TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

Apart from the interviewing of members of Parliament at the House of Commons at the time of the Emergency Conference, members' meetings have been specially called to protest against the agitation of traders' associations to have the trade of co-operative societies assessed for Income Tax, also to demand a repeal of the Excess Profits Tax so far as it affects co-operative societies; the result of such meetings undoubtedly had some effect in the alteration of the basis as far as the latter tax is concerned in the last Finance Act, but continued activity

is required to combat the untiring efforts of the private trader to get exceptional legislation passed detrimental to the interests of co-operation.

HOURS AND WAGES BOARD.

The Boards have been established in each conference district with we believe beneficial results, many amicable arrangements having been come to.

CONCILIATION BOARD.

The services of the members of the Sectional Conciliation Board have been sought on several occasions and their decisions accepted, thus proving the value of such boards in settling or rather preventing disputes.

EDUCATIONAL.

The various Educational Committees and branches of Women's and Men's Guilds have carried on their work, although somewhat restricted in their operations.

The Sectional Choral Association held its Annual Festival at Derby, on 18th October, and notwithstanding the difficulty experienced in securing male voices owing to so many men being on active service, was a marked success, and all concerned are to be heartily congratulated for "carrying on" under such adverse circumstances.

To those societies not possessing choirs, the Board urge the consideration of taking steps towards their formation.

CONVALESCENT FUND.

This fund continues to make progress, there being a marked increase in the number of persons receiving grants as compared with the previous year, and only requires to be more widely known among the members of societies when a still larger number of co-operators recovering from sickness will be receiving the great benefits obtainable through membership.

Eleven societies have joined the fund during the year, and one lapsed on becoming attached to another section, making the present membership 96.

To those societies not yet affiliated we appeal for support on behalf of this truly co-operative organisation for giving assistance in time of need.

HOLYOAKE CENTENARY.

We cannot conclude our report without referring to the historical event which took place in Birmingham on the afternoon of Saturday, 14th April, when a Memorial Tablet was unveiled—and has since been fixed on the front of the New Central premises of the Birmingham Society in High Street—in commemoration of the Centenary of the birth of our late revered leader George Jacob Holyoake. The ceremony was performed by his old colleague, Mr. E. O. Greening, before a large gathering of representative co-operators from all parts of the Kingdom; following the unveiling Mrs. Holyoake Marsh (daughter of Mr. Holyoake) and Mr. James Deans gave addresses worthy of the occasion.

In the evening a Mass Meeting and Concert was held in the large Central Hall, when Mr. W. Millerchip presided over a crowded attendance, and speeches

were delivered by Mr. Geo. Bastard and Mr. Rae, each bearing testimony from long personal experience to the worth of the man whom they had met to honour.

The meetings both in the afternoon and evening were in every way a success, the various speeches being worthy of the occasion and will long be remembered by those who were privileged to be present.

J. BUTCHER, Chairman.

CHAS. A. W. SAXTON, Secretary.

THE MIDLAND CO-OPERATIVE CONVALESCENT FUND.

Executive Committee :

Mr. G. Woodhouse (chairman), C.W.S.	Mr. W. Millerchip, Walsall.
„ T. Brodrick (auditor).	„ W. Warren, Derby.
„ Chas. A. W. Saxton (secretary), Worcester.	„ J. Butcher, Rugby.
„ D. McInnes, C.W.S.	„ J. Millington, Birmingham.
„ W. J. Douse, Nottingham.	„ S. Kemp, Leicester.
„ C. W. Brown, Coalville.	„ G. Harris, Lincoln.
	„ B. Butler, Wellingborough.

In presenting this, our fourth annual report and statement of accounts, we wish to congratulate the members on the continued progress of the fund during the year 1917.

We are pleased to be able to state that, notwithstanding the abnormal conditions prevailing owing to the war, and the necessary accommodation required for our convalescent soldiers and sailors at the various homes, we have, with very few exceptions, been able to obtain admission for our patients.

In cases when we could not obtain admission within a reasonable time at the Devonshire Home, Buxton, and St. John's Brine Baths, Droitwich, special grants have been made to enable applicants to attend as out-patients.

Many letters have been received from convalescents, paying tribute to the value of the "fund," and expressing gratitude for the benefits received from residence in the various homes. Copies of two such letters appear in this report.

There has been a marked increase in the number of persons receiving grants when compared with the previous year; and the "fund" only requires to be more widely known among the members of societies, when a still larger number of our co-operative members recovering from sickness will be receiving the great benefits to be obtained through membership with the "fund."

We have received an urgent appeal from the Committee of the Derby and Derbyshire Convalescent Home, Matlock, for assistance to meet the extra cost occasioned by the provision made for convalescent soldiers, and we recommend a grant of £5.

Eleven societies have joined the "fund" during the year, and one lapsed, viz., Scunthorpe, on being transferred to another section, making the present total 96. We appeal to those societies not yet affiliated to become members,

and thus give a helping hand to co-operators or their families after a period of sickness, oftentimes of long duration.

Grants have been made to 335 applicants from 49 societies, made up as follows:—172 men, 155 women, and 8 children. There were two cases of nine weeks each; ten of six weeks; three of five weeks; and nine of four weeks, the total number of weeks being 1,019, or an average of three weeks each case.

Subscriptions amount to £1,387. 0s. 7d., being an increase of £148. 13s. 7d., and the contributions of convalescents or their friends £51. 18s. 1d., being a decrease of £14. 9s. 5d. when compared with 1916. The amount expended in grants was £849. 12s. 11d., less £14. 12s. 7d. returned, leaving the net grant £835. 0s. 4d., an increase of £242. 0s. 7d.

We desire to express our gratitude to the Derby Society for providing a room for our monthly and annual meetings; also for their hospitality.

We also wish to tender our thanks to the secretaries of societies who, notwithstanding the difficulties they have to contend with through shortage of staff, have been prompt in sending on particulars of cases, which is most important in view of the reduced postal service, and tends to avoid delay in obtaining admission for our patients in the various homes.

We regret that, owing to their other engagements, Messrs. J. Butcher and W. Millerchip are not seeking re-election on the committee, and we wish to thank them for services rendered since the formation of the "fund."

In conclusion, we wish to once again express our hope that ere our next report is published this terrible world-war will be ended and peace reign again, when we are satisfied that the benefits of the Midland Co-operative Convalescent Fund will be further extended and appreciated.

GEO. WOODHOUSE, Chairman.

CHAS. A. W. SAXTON, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTHAMPTON AND EARLS BARTON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Rogers (chairman), Northampton.	Mr. J. C. Frisby, Long Buckby.
„ G. T. James (secretary), Moulton.	„ J. C. Cooper, Earls Barton.
„ C. Richardson, Northampton.	„ T. E. Barnes, Daventry.
„ W. Mellows, Harpole.	

In submitting to you our annual report, we lament the fact that the nations are still at war, instead of dwelling together in unity and peace. There has been good propaganda work done, and some societies have rationed their members in several articles, supplies still being difficult to procure. Members of the Executive have given addresses at special members' meetings. A Hours and Wages Board has been established and a graded scale drafted, to be submitted to societies and the A.U.C.E. Active Parliamentary action

has been taken in the district and the councils formed; also district councils arranged, ready for taking action when a candidate is adopted. The district conferences have been well attended; a united one with the Kettering and Wellingborough district was held, the subject discussed being the "Housing Problem," introduced by Mr. W. Ballard, C.C. (manager of the local society). The Managers' Association is still "carrying on." Several meetings of the association have been held during the year at the C.W.S. Depôt at Northampton. On Thursday, 4th October, 1917, a largely attended meeting was held by the members of the Northampton Society, to register their protest against the action of the Town Council in refusing the local society direct representation on the Food Control Committee. The chairman of the District Executive (Mr. W. Rogers), who is also president of the society, gave a forceful address. The rural societies have some representatives on these committees.

The Northampton Society is fully alive to the need of securing land, and it has purchased two farms over 270 acres. The Men's and Women's Guilds have been actively engaged, and the Choral Society has done some useful work in helping with musical items at the meetings.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society's Depôt is still progressing, and shows an increase on the December half year of £77,695, or 14.6 per cent, and is now doing a trade of £22,000 per week.

The conference held at Daventry on 14th July, 1917, considered the subject of "Excess Profits Duty." The paper was read by Mr. Finneymere, and Mr. E. Browning presided. At this meeting the District Executive were elected.

The Long Buckby Society has purchased another small farm, consisting of 166 acres, for £7,500, making 270 acres of land now farmed by the society. The Cinema run by the society still continues to flourish.

The Harpole Society point out in their January report that the members have lost twopence in the £ by the war tax, but have lost one shilling and fourpence by dealing outside.

The rural societies, which are small, have all been communicated with, some having been visited and good meetings held. They are carrying on under difficulties of transport, losses in their staffs, and inadequate supplies for members. On the whole, the district has never had such an active year of work.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	0	3 5	By Attendances Executive Meetings	3	4 1
" Grant from Co-operative Union ..	16	0 8½	" " District Conferences, &c.	7	4 0
" Subscriptions from Societies	4	17 6	" " Sectional Conferences ..	1	1 1½
			" General Printing and Stationery .	1	7 3
			" Postages	0	14 4
			" Congress Expenses	4	17 6
			" Hours and Wages Board Expenses	2	10 10
			" Balance in hand of Treasurer		
			31st Dec., 1917	0	2 6
Audited—					
GEORGE FAULKNER.					
£21 1 7½			£21 1 7½		

G. T. JAMES, Secretary.

NO. 2.—KETTERING AND WELLINGBOROUGH.

Executive Committee.

Mr. F. Miller (president), Raunds.	Mr. H. Clayson, Wellingboro'.
„ A. J. Foulds (secretary), Kettering.	„ C. Coe, Rothwell.
„ C. Stokes, Burton Latimer.	„ W. J. Cure, Rushden.
„ G. Marlow, Desborough.	„ J. Langley, Kettering.

The work of this association for the past year has been one of increased activity, and, as a result of the efforts put forth, we hope will be productive of much good.

We have held four ordinary committee meetings and four district conferences; three special conferences on the subject of a pure milk supply, and one committee meeting. While in connection with the subject of Parliamentary representation, we have held two committee meetings, two special conferences, and two meetings with the East Northants Labour Party, making a total of 18 committee meetings and conferences.

The Executive meetings have been held at the invitation of the following societies:—Thrapston Industrial, Raunds, Kettering Clothiers, and Higham Ferrers. We feel sure that these opportunities for meeting the committees of the various societies in the district will be productive of much good to the committee in carrying on the work of the District Association, as it enables them to get a much better idea of what societies are doing and the difficulties they are having to contend with.

The first conference was an invited one with the Northampton and Earle Barton District, and was held at Northampton on Saturday, 27th January, 1917, when Mr. W. Rogers (Northampton) opened a discussion on “Social and Economic Problems confronting Co-operators.”

The second conference was held at Rothwell on Saturday, 28th April, when a paper was read by Mr. C. Coe (Rothwell), subject, “Co-operative Employee: His Place in the Co-operative Offensive.”

The third conference was held at Kettering, under the auspices of the Union Boot Society, to celebrate their coming-of-age, and was held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Saturday, 14th July, when Mr. E. O. Greening (London) gave an address on “Co-operation, the Speediest Means of Uplifting Labour.” At this conference the Executive was instructed to call a special conference as early as possible to consider the question of Parliamentary representation as recommended by the Swansea Congress.

The fourth conference was held at Desborough on Saturday, 13th October, when the President (Mr. G. Marlow), in giving the delegates a cordial welcome, referred to the fact that their society now owned 3,500 acres of land, and out of that they were farming 600 acres and the result had been a great success. They had 22 horses, 101 beasts, 336 sheep, 284 head of poultry. They had provided 641 plots for allotments, varying from 20 poles to one acre.

They had erected 60 houses and advanced money to 62 members to build their own. A splendid example of what co-operation can accomplish in getting

at the source of supplies. Mr. Howard Marlow (son of Mr. J. Marlow), manager of the Desborough Society, and prospective candidate for co-operative Parliamentary honours, was the speaker, and his subject was "Co-operation and Political Action and the New Democracy." A most instructive address, and one calculated to inspire hope and confidence in the new departure co-operators had decided to take by the decision of the Swansea Congress.

With a view of stimulating interest in a pure milk supply for the district, a special conference was held at Wellingborough on Saturday, 24th March, when this question was introduced by Mr. S. Booth (Wellingborough), and a resolution was unanimously adopted—"That, in the opinion of the meeting, the time had arrived when steps should be taken to organise the milk supply of the district."

A further meeting was held at Kettering on Saturday, 21st April, when delegates attended from thirteen societies in the district, and it was decided that a circular be sent to all societies in the district asking them if they would be prepared to start in the milk business. An executive committee was appointed, and at a meeting held at Kettering on 9th May it was decided to hold a united conference with Northampton and Earls Barton District, and that Mr. Jackson (Co-operative Wholesale Society Agricultural Department) be asked to attend.

This conference was held at Wellington on Saturday, 19th May, when Mr. Jackson attended and pointed out some of the difficulties connected with the milk trade that would have to be met; also the great need for societies to make an effort to produce their own milk. At the same time, he said the Co-operative Wholesale Society would be prepared to give societies all the assistance possible.

Re Parliamentary Representation.—At the conference held at Kettering on Saturday, 14th July, a resolution was unanimously adopted asking the Executive to convene a conference at an early date for the purpose of considering the question of Parliamentary representation in the district. That conference was held at Wellingborough on Saturday, 18th August, when Mr. W. Ballard (Kettering) read a paper on "Parliamentary Action and the Alteration of Seats in the Division as affected by the New Distribution Bill." The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting of the Kettering and Wellingborough District Co-operative Association pledges itself to do all in its power to carry out the Swansea Congress resolution *re* Parliamentary action." Mr. J. Marlow (Desborough) felt that the previous resolution did not go far enough, and submitted the following:—"That this conference of delegates, representing the co-operative societies of the district, authorises the district committee to meet delegates of trade unions and Labour associations to discuss ways and means of ensuring the adequate representation of co-operative opinion on national and local administrative bodies, and empowers them to draft negotiations with a view to joint activity, believing such action will result in the common benefit of the worker." This resolution on being put to the meeting was carried, and it was decided to add six additional names to the district committee for that purpose.

A letter was received from the East Northants. Labour Party asking for a meeting of the two bodies *re* political action. The secretary was instructed to arrange for a meeting. It was also decided that a circular be sent to all the societies in the district asking them to convene a meeting of members to consider the Congress resolution *re* Parliamentary action, and to report at an early date.

The joint meeting with the East Northants. Labour Party was held at Wellingborough, on Saturday, 15th September. The meeting was occupied in clearing away misconceptions and paving the way for future joint activity after the special conference had been held in London. Replies received from societies to the circular sent out, when the meetings had been held, were considered very satisfactory.

A further meeting with the East Northants. Labour Party was held at Wellingborough on Saturday, 20th October, and an understanding was arrived at with reference to the two divisions co-operating to support Labour in the Wellingborough Division on condition that the same be promised to co-operators in the Kettering Division by the Labour Party.

A special conference was held at Wellingborough on Saturday, 10th November, when reports of the London conference were given by Mr. L. Booth, also report of the meetings with the Northants. Labour Party, when the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That this conference heartily approves of the scheme adopted by the London conference for securing direct representation of co-operators in Parliament on all local governing bodies, and pledges itself to use every endeavour to make the scheme a success; and that this conference recommends that local councils be formed in the two divisions to carry the foregoing resolution into effect; also that the name of Mr. H. Marlow (Oldham) be submitted as a suitable candidate to be placed on the list of Parliamentary candidates of the Co-operative Union." Councils have been formed in the two divisions and good propaganda work is being organised.

We trust that this record of a busy year will be productive of much good to the movement.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.		£ s. d.		Expenditure.		£ s. d.	
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1917.....	25	16	11½	By Attendances-Executive Meetings	8	6	10
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	26	15	11	„ „ District Conferences..	15	16	3
„ Subscriptions from Societies	13	1	0	„ „ Sectional Conferences	0	16	6
„ Sale of Conference Paper (Mr. Coe)	2	19	5	„ General Printing and Stationery..	13	2	0
„ Bank Interest	0	12	0	„ Postages	1	16	1
				„ Secretary's Salary	2	0	0
				„ Scrutineer's Expenses	0	5	0
				„ Delegate to Congress	5	0	0
				„ Delegate to London Conference..	2	9	4
				„ International Alliance	0	16	0
				„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,			
				1st Jan., 1918	18	17	3½
Audited—							
C. STOKES.							
£69 5 3½				£69 5 3½			

A. J. FOULDS, Secretary.

No. 3.—LEICESTER.

Executive Committee.

Mr. H. Clark (chairman), Leicester.	Mr. H. Elliott, Gt. Wigston.
„ W. E. Pepper (secretary).	„ S. Kemp, Leicester.
„ A. Smith, Mountsorrel.	„ J. Hunt, Huncote.
„ T. Wilford, Anchor Education Committee.	„ F. Gilbert, Wigston Hosiers.
„ S. J. Mellor, Leicester Education Committee.	„ W. W. Hill, Barwell.
„ H. Cramphorn, Self-Help Boot Soc.	„ S. H. Whiley, Leicester Small Holders.
„ C. W. Brown, Coalville.	„ J. Gillett, Groby.
„ W. Everard, Glenfield.	Mrs. Widdowson, Leicester Women's Guild.
„ J. Abbott, Gt. Wigston.	Mr. H. Biggs, Enderby.
„ C. Petty, Anchor Boot Society.	„ C. Grimes, Hinckley.
„ J. Timson, Sperope Boot Soc.	„ J. Jordan, Barwell.
„ E. Marston, Croft.	„ T. O. Unwin, Shepshed.
„ S. Drinkwater, Leicester Printers.	

In presenting the annual report for the year ending 31st December, 1917, our first duty is to record with deep regret the loss we have sustained by the death of our old and respected friend, Mr. H. Clark, who has held the office of president of the District Association for the past 24 years, having been elected to the office at a conference held at Coalville on 7th April, 1894. A keen co-operator, with a strong personality, combined with tact, good judgment, and a cheery optimism, he was a source of strength and inspiration to all who came in contact with him in the movement he loved so dearly, and his loss will be keenly felt by a large circle of friends.

During the year four conferences and two committee meetings have been held.

The first conference was a joint one with the Coventry district at Lockhurst Lane on Saturday, 24th February, when Mr. W. E. Wood read a paper entitled "A Consideration of Future Aspects," which brought out a good discussion and provided food for thought for the future.

The second was held at Burbage on 28th April, when Mr. H. Elliott read Mr. F. Hall's paper on "Increasing Membership and Trade," a good case being made out for more loyalty to the co-operative movement.

The third was held on the premises of the Equity Boot Society on 21st July, a splendid discussion being provided by a report of the Swansea Congress, given by Mr. H. Elliott (the association's delegate). This being our annual meeting, the report and balance sheet was adopted, and the officers elected for the ensuing year.

The fourth was held at Great Wigton on 13th October, when Mr. G. Stanton read a paper entitled "Co-operation and Reconstruction," showing the possibilities of co-operation if we will only take advantage of our opportunities.

Although severely handicapped in the matter of obtaining supplies, co-operation in this district continues to flourish and increase, both in membership and trade, and reports to hand show increases, notably at Leicester,

Coalville, Hinckley, Great Wigton, Hathern, Shepshed, Huncote, Barwell, &c.

The District Hours and Wages Board has had a busy year, thirteen meetings having been held, and a scale of wages and war bonuses compiled and agreed to jointly by the Board and the A.U.C.E.

During the year the productive societies in the district have been working at high pressure the whole time, but despite this fact they have not been able to cope with all the demands which have been made on them.

The various education committees have, as usual, been busy during the year doing useful work by holding lectures, classes, concerts, propaganda meetings, &c.

The Men's and Women's Guilds in our district have also been busy during the year, doing good work by propagating the principles and aims of co-operation.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Grant from Co-operative Union..	11	15 2	By Balance due to Treasurer 1st Jan.,		
„ Subscriptions from Societies	15	3 6	1917	0	6 0
„ Cash due to Treasurer 1st Jan.,			„ Attendances—Executive Meetings	3	13 8½
1918	0	17 4½	„ „ District Conferences	8	4 9
			„ General Printing and Stationery..	6	19 9
			„ Postages	1	13 0
Andited—			„ Secretary's Salary	2	0 0
A. H. GITTINS.			„ Congress Delegate, Expenses....	4	13 10
E. HARROTT.			„ Auditors	0	5 0
	£27	16 0½		£27	16 0½

W. E. PEPPER, Secretary.

NO. 4.—COVENTRY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. Hilton (chairman), Lockhurst Lane.	Mr. A. Roberts, Nuneaton.
„ James Clay (secretary), Coventry.	„ A. Gopsill, Nuneaton.
„ J. Carter, Rugby.	„ W. H. Cowley, Lockhurst Lane.
„ W. H. Dexter, Rugby.	„ W. H. Clarke, Atherstone.
	„ W. E. Wood, Coventry.

The work of the year 1917 has been much on the usual lines, though hampered in many ways by the conditions prevailing at the time.

There have been conferences held as follows :—(1) Annual meeting at Nuneaton, 23rd June, at which the officers were elected, and at which Mr. F. Hardman (Rugby) read his paper on “The Co-operator and the Trade-unionist.” (2) Conference at Atherstone on 25th August, when Mr. J. H. Harris (Coventry) read his paper on “Co-operators and the Land”; and the joint conference with Leicester District at Hinckley on 16th February, when Mr. Millerchip introduced the subject of the “Co-operative National Policy.” In addition, a visit was paid by the Executive to Long Itchington on 1st September, and a crowded public meeting was addressed by Mr. W. E. Wood (Coventry Executive). This was a highly successful meeting in every respect.

The executive have held four meetings, apart from the above, during the year.

Reports from societies show that in spite of adverse conditions, owing to war influences, very substantial progress has been made in membership and trade.

Rugby Society has increased its trade by over £36,000, and its membership stands now at 8,129, while in some of its ventures it has been very successful.

Lockhurst Lane Society has progressed well. The membership is now 3,700, and the sales have been £113,000 for the year.

Atherstone has kept up its trade and membership, although suffering very badly from food shortage. It has, however, stood the test well, which it ascribes mainly to its loyalty to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, especially as regards several items in its food supply.

Nuneaton Society, like most societies in or near munition areas, has had very strenuous times, and has had to suffer from outside and unfair competition, but has every reason to be hopeful that under a properly systematised distribution of foodstuffs it will readily recover any lost ground. Its membership and trade have maintained their high level, and will do so.

Coventry has, like Nuneaton, been sorely tried as regards catering for its membership, and the food problem has not helped it to make the progress it otherwise would have done.

We are pleased to record that, notwithstanding many difficulties, it has been found possible for the amalgamation of the Warwick and Coventry societies to become an accomplished fact, thereby strengthening co-operation in Warwick without affecting the standing of the larger society in any way. Warwick was taken over at the end of the year at 20s. in the £, and promises to prove a useful section of the joint society.

Trade and membership have increased, although the problem of equitable distribution to all members still remains unsolved in this particular area.

Taking this district as a whole, co-operation has had this year of 1917 a severe testing time, and has been brought into actual conflict with the multiple shop system, and has not by any means escaped unhurt. The lesson has been driven home that, failing State control of the means and sources of supply, it becomes imperative that co-operation should arm itself for further conflict at the earliest opportunity by extending its function of distribution to the acquisition of the raw materials, failing a control of which it can never absolutely rely upon an adequate supply for its members in time of national crisis like the present. The imperative necessity of the co-operative membership being treated on an equitable basis, whatever the supply, has militated seriously in its competition with the trader whose power of discrimination is vested entirely in himself, and against whom no charge of unfair distribution can be made good.

We are hoping that these things will soon be remedied, when progress will once more be made in an increasing rate as the months and years pass.

Most of the societies in the district have taken up whole-heartedly the

matter of representation in Parliament and on public bodies. Committees have been appointed in Coventry, Nuneaton, Rugby, and Lockhurst Lane areas, and these are working severally and in conjunction for the furtherance of the objects aimed at. Funds for the purpose have been allocated by the various societies, and the activities of the committee will be showing results in an appreciably short time.

The Women's Guilds and Educational Committees are working under bad conditions, but fine work is being done by them throughout the district.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 31st December, 1916	1	19	1	8	5
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	18	4	11	7	15
„ Subscriptions from Societies	19	13	0	2	0
			„ Deputations to Societies	10	5
			„ General Printing and Stationery..	0	17
			„ Postages	2	2
			„ Secretary's Salary	8	11
			„ Propaganda Meeting at Long	0	5
			„ Itchingington.....	4	0
			„ Auditors' Fees	0	15
			„ Delegate to Congress.....	8	0
			„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,		
			1st January, 1918	0	15
				8	
Audited—					
ERNEST HILTON.					
WILLIAM E. WOOD.					
£39 17 0			£39 17 0		

JAMES CLAY, Secretary.

No. 5.—BIRMINGHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Frank H. Bruff (hon. secretary),	Mr. A. Johnson, Dudley.
42, Hill Street, Birmingham.	„ H. G. Mander, Alcester.
„ F. Cornforth, Birmingham Indus-	„ Wm. Shutt, Kidderminster
trial.	„ J. Simpson, Planet.
„ A. W. Critchley, Soho.	„ W. Summers, Ten Acres.
„ J. Dunkley, Worcester.	„ H. Wilson, Mid. Woodworkers.

The year 1917 has undoubtedly been one of the most trying periods ever experienced by our movement, and officials and management committees have been sorely tried in their endeavour to supply the demands of members. An enormous amount of work has been effected in order that, as far as possible, all members should receive a fair share of the limited supplies, and those societies that acted early and promptly have at any rate succeeded in securing something like equity in this direction, despite insane prosecutions as a reward for their endeavours to stop food hoarding. Dividends have come down all round, but generally the members have remained very loyal.

Quite the most important event of the year has been the adoption by the movement of the direct representation policy, and the Birmingham district is well to the fore in getting local councils in going order and preparing for the battle of the future.

The beautiful new premises of the Birmingham Society have proved an unqualified success, as much as £1,200 being taken in one day in the drapery

department alone; while the café, large as it is, has proved altogether inadequate for the accommodation of all its would-be patrons.

The Worcester Society has purchased two small farms, comprising in all 248 acres, with the usual farm buildings, situated at Kempsey, in the midst of beautiful pastoral country. All will wish the society well in its enterprise. Surely the war has taught us that the people must control the sources of supply. We record Worcester's attempt to "do their bit" to aid in this direction.

The two Birmingham productive societies are both doing well. The Midland Woodworkers have, through the excellence of their work in office appliances, &c., secured many Government orders, as well as contracts from controlled firms; while the Birmingham Printers continue their usual progress and usefulness.

There is hardly need to make special mention of other individual societies. All are doing their best in these critical times, and the movement must emerge with clean hands and strong heart when the war is over and the fight for the emancipation of all the people begins anew.

In consequence of the difficulties of transport, it was decided to hold only two general conferences during the year, but to make them of a specially attractive and useful character. The first was held at Stirchley, on 17th March, when Professor A. W. Kirkaldy (Birmingham University) delivered an address on "The Reconstruction of Society after the War." The address was full of thoughtful and suggestive ideas. A good but necessarily short discussion followed, and the conference, which was attended by 150 delegates, was declared a great success.

The second special conference was held in the new premises of the Birmingham Society, on 17th November, 1917, when the Rev. Arnold Pinchard gave an address on "The Opportunity and Responsibility of Democracy"—a subject arranged for in view of our entry into the political arena—and, as usual, Mr. Pinchard gave us a most helpful and inspiring address, and which was considered by the editor of the *Millgate Monthly* worthy of reproduction in the January (1918) issue of that magazine. Some 200 delegates attended this special conference.

In addition to these special conferences, a conference of general committees only was called at Kidderminster on 21st July, for the purpose of preparing the societies for work in connection with our new political scheme. The discussion was opened by the district secretary (Mr. Frank H. Bruff), and a most useful debate resulted, which has proved very valuable in accentuating the need for immediate action in connection with our political propaganda.

Two amalgamations, not completed at the close of the year, but both well towards completion, are to be recorded. The first is the taking over of the Planet Assurance Society by the Co-operative Insurance Society, and the second the amalgamation of the Warwick Society with Coventry. Although our district loses two societies, we are at any rate delighted to know that our

Mr. S. Butler (Midland and Sectional Board). Invitations were extended to all Labour lodges in and around Wolverhampton to be represented.

We have to report that the societies in the Lichfield Division of Staffordshire, viz., Cannock, Walsall, Rugeley, Burton-on-Trent, and Tamworth, have formed themselves into a political co-operative alliance, with the object of securing a candidate to contest the Lichfield Division in the Co-operative and Labour interest, and some very successful meetings have been held. The committee appointed to consider the question of federal farming have had several meetings, with the net result up to the present that three farms at Shenton Court, near Lichfield, have been purchased, consisting of 402 acres, to be the joint property of the Walsall and Cannock societies.

Tamworth Society has purchased the Hogshill Farm, of 434½ acres, for the sum of £9,000; it now owns 660 acres in addition and rents a farm of 192 acres, making a total of 852 acres. This year it has a surplus of £747 on the two farms it has been working.

A meeting to consider the question of overlapping was held at Wednesbury on Saturday, 30th June, 1917, the following societies being represented:—Wednesbury, Soho, Dudley, Tipton, Wolverhampton, and Walsall, and it was resolved that, after thoroughly discussing the question of amalgamation and kindred subjects, we are unanimously of the opinion that amalgamation would not be acceptable or in the interests of our members at this juncture, but we shall, however, continue to work in harmony with each other and to co-ordinate our efforts and work towards a federation wherever practicable.

It is also our great pleasure to report that the Tipton, Cannock, and Stafford societies have adopted cash trading, and are doing very well. Rugeley Society will commence cash trading on the 11th March.

A Management Committees' Association has been started to consider the questions appertaining to such committees.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	14	5 4	By Attendances Executive Meetings	14	17 11
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	27	0 1	„ „ District Conferences..	11	4 7
„ Subscriptions from Societies	7	12 0	„ „ Sectional Conferences	1	0 4
			„ Deputations to Societies	0	16 6
			„ General Printing and Stationery.	1	14 3
			„ Postages	1	17 11
			„ Hours and Wages Board—		
			„ Delegate from District	0	13 6
			„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,		
			1st January, 1918.	16	12 5
Audited—					
W. J. HARRIS.					
<hr/>					
	£48	17 5		£48	17 5

HENRY SANDERS, Secretary.

No. 7.—DERBY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. G. Wilson (president), Derby.	Mr. S. Page, Ilkeston.
„ Thos. Leaman (secretary), Ripley.	„ F. Clayton, Codnor Park.
„ F. Levick, Derby Printers.	„ John Bailey, Long Eaton.
„ W. Wyld, Tibshelf.	„ Thos. Fearn, Ripley.
„ T. H. Edinborough, Long Eaton Printers.	„ D. Sharp, Langley Mill.

During the past year we have held four conferences and two executive meetings. The conferences have been well attended, and keen interest has been taken in the various subjects discussed, three of which the Central Board has particularly requested the districts to take up.

The first was held at Langley Mill on the 21st April, 1917, when Professor Hall's paper, "The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices, Increasing Membership and Trade," was read by Mr. T. H. Edinborough (Long Eaton Printers). The discussion on this all-important subject was excellent.

The second conference was held at Tibshelf. Mr. W. Wyld (local society) read the paper prepared by Mr. J. Pessall (Oakengates Society), "The Undesirableness of a Time Service Limit for Committee-men." The speakers were almost unanimous against a time limit, but not quite.

The third conference was held at Long Eaton, when Mr. Langley (Midland Sectional Board) introduced the subject, "The National Policy and Programme." All the speakers were favourable to removing all restrictions as to share capital, so that there may be a large increase in capital for the extension of production.

The fourth conference was held at Codnor Park on the 9th February. Mr. A. H. Jones (Shrewsbury) introduced the question of the day, "Direct Representation in Parliament and on other Public Bodies." In a very able speech the speaker advised the societies to get thoroughly well organised, pointing out that we shall find ourselves up against vested and all other interests.

Resulting from propaganda work done last year at Brassington, in the Peak, we have received very encouraging reports. The small society has moved out of the old ruts, the wheels are well oiled and are now on the top ready for "go ahead." Sales this year, £3,327; last year they were £1,331. Profits for 1917, £216; last year, £26 only. The old debts have been reduced from £50 to £12, and are gradually approaching cash trade. The committee have had a successful co-operative class for juniors, and are setting aside 2½ per cent for educational purposes. When the District Committee visited the society in September, 1916, the membership was 49; it is now 84. The committee are taking far greater interest in their work. They have become subscribers to the Midland Convalescent Fund, Co-operative Union, and the Parliamentary Fund.

Lea and Holloway Society is also making steady progress, and the committee are taking greater interest in the district work.

Tibshelf Society is doing well, showing good increases in membership and trade. The loyalty of the members is very commendable, £1. 6s. 2d. per member per week. The propaganda side of the movement has not been neglected, a number of meetings having been held, provided with speakers on various subjects.

Codnor Park also shows a net increase of 100 members. Meetings have been held to explain to members the desirability of saving their money in the Co-operative Wholesale Society's individual deposit scheme, and a satisfactory response has been made; also meetings of members have been held *re* "Direct Representation."

Ilkeston committee report the difficulties they have experienced in obtaining goods, which has brought them into conflict with the local Food Control Committee. They have sent a protest to Lord Rhondda, have held special meetings of members and protested against the actions of the Control Committee and demanded proportionate representation on the same, and, in order to strengthen the protest, they have withdrawn the only representative they had on until the matter is settled. They have received a letter from Lord Rhondda stating that a Commissioner will be sent down to inquire. In the meantime, it is "Wait and See."

There is a large increase of members in the district, but owing to the world shortage of foodstuffs, and the difficulty of procuring same, the increases in trade are comparatively small, the whole situation causing a great deal of anxiety to the various committees. Most of the societies are very active in appointing committees for "direct representation," and no doubt co-operative candidates will be nominated for Parliamentary and other bodies.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..		5	17	6½	By Attendances—Executive Meetings		9	2	8
„ Grant from Co-operative Union		12	11	11	„ „ District Conferences		4	16	0
„ Subscriptions from Societies		7	11	0	„ „ Sectional Conferences		1	4	7
					„ General Printing and Stationery.		2	10	0
					„ Postages		0	19	0
					„ Secretary's Salary		2	0	0
					„ Auditing		0	2	6
					„ Delegate to Congress		4	14	0
					„ Women's Guild fares.....		2	2	4
					„ Balance in hand of Treasurer, 31st December, 1917		4	9	4½
Audited—									
F. LEVICK.									
G. WILSON.									
		£26	0	5½			£26	0	5½

T. LEAMAN, Secretary.

No. 8.—NOTTINGHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Frank Hays (president), Jacksdale,
Notts.
„ S. H. Brown (secretary), Nottingham
„ E. Forsyth (editor of *Record*).
„ G. A. Arnold, Southwell.

Mr. W. Blood, Ruddington.
 „ G. Peach, Selston.
 „ J. Reeves, Kimberley.
 „ A. Wylds, J.P., Langley Mill.

The executive decided early in the year that, owing to the difficulty and expense of railway travelling, it would not be expedient to hold more than three conferences during the year. The first of these took place at Mansfield on 24th March, 1917, when Mr. Beck (director, local society) read a forward paper on "The Future of Co-operation." The essayist showed an excellent anticipation of the possibilities and probabilities of the co-operative movement in the days to come, showing that our history during the past two and a half years of the great war is an augury of the great things the people could do for themselves by getting complete control of the sources of supply and seizing the means of trade and government.

On 14th July, under the auspices of the Codnor Park and Ironville Co-operative Society, a conference was held at Jacksdale. Mr. S. Clarke read a paper entitled "The Beneficial Effects of Excess Profits Tax." The benefits the writer could see are that we shall get a better understanding of our position and a clarified vision of the ideals of the movement.

The third conference took place on 18th October, at Selston, when Mr. G. Peach introduced the subject of "A National Co-operative Policy and a National Co-operative Programme for the Congress Year 1917-18."

Direct Representation.—Towards the end of the year Hucknall and Kirkby Society set the ball rolling by calling representatives from all societies in the new Parliamentary division. We are hoping to run Mr. Walter Halls (organising secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen and vice-chairman of the Nottingham Co-operative Society), and feel sure if any co-operator can win Broxtow he is the man.

There have been six meetings of the Executive. Mr. E. Forsythe, the new editor of the *Record*, has made the little missive interesting and profitable reading, the advertisements have been remunerative, and the results financially satisfactory.

It is gratifying to announce that there are fourteen out of the twenty-three societies in the district that have adopted the Collective Life scheme, and Mr. J. W. Robertshaw (the local agent) expresses confidence that after the war all the societies in this district will adopt this system of assurance. It is time we had a special call on societies for this purpose.

The newly formed Hours and Wages Board is doing a useful work, having, amongst other things, arranged a minimum scale of wages for managers and departmental managers in the district.

To protect the societies in the butchery business, an institution called the East Midland Co-operative Butchers' Association, consisting of a board of one representative from each society and a departmental official. This is doing a useful work.

All the societies in this district appear to be weathering the storms fairly well and making headway, or at least holding their own.

The Nottingham Society showed a profit of £1,273 on its farms, and has made a further purchase of additional land and buildings.

The Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers show an increase of trade, £27,392,

system will at any rate ensure an equal distribution of the prime necessities of life.

The general shortage has been largely responsible for the continued influx of new members, and the receipts of societies in this district have continued to grow in a manner beyond our wildest dreams, large increases in sales being recorded by all the societies in the district. The disposable balance (not profits) has, in most instances, been on a lower scale, bringing down the dividends materially, and it is most probable that these will not, in the future, reach the high figures formerly so common in some districts, but that it will become recognised that a more moderate return is the more equitable method and the one likely to enable committees to fight the determined opposition they are sure to meet with after the war.

Building operations for extension of premises, &c., though doubly needful, owing to increased trade, have all through the district been held up, but in many cases land and buildings have been acquired in readiness for the better time we are hoping for with the cessation of the war. Lincoln, Peterborough, and Grantham societies have each secured premises in preparation for extensions, and Grimsby and Gainsborough have also made extensive purchases of property, which will be brought into use as early as possible, and throughout the district there are manifest signs of sound progress.

Good work has been done in the villages, as far as the food shortage would permit, and there are now very few untouched by co-operation.

The Educational Committee and Women's Guild continue their work with remarkable devotion to the movement, and they are using the limited means at their disposal in building up the social side of the movement and by creating an atmosphere of self-help that should give added strength in the future.

Two executive meetings and three conferences have been held during the year, as under:—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Writer and Reader.
1917. 27th Jan..	Gainsboro'.	The Economic Results of the War, and their effect upon the Co-operative Movement	Professor Hall. Paper read by Mr. W. F. Paget.
19th May..	Spalding...	Co-operative Societies and Income Tax.	Mr. H. J. Mays. Paper read by Mr. J. T. Brown, J.P.
21st Oct. ..	Newark....	Our National Policy and Programme.	Read by Mr. G. Harris.

The attendance at each meeting was very good, notwithstanding the serious drawback of decreased railway facilities. The subjects, which concerned the movement as a whole, were freely discussed, and the delegates

were brought into direct touch with and were found to be fully cognisant of the importance of the matters brought before them, especially those relating to excess profits and our national policy. The momentous decision of the Swansea Congress, later confirmed by the special Congress in London, to embark in political work has been adopted all through the district, and committees are getting into shape for active work in order to use their forces for the benefit of the movement as far as possible.

The district Hours and Wages Board, which came into being in the latter part of the preceding year, also held two meetings, but, fortunately, there has not been any need for their special services during the year.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917: -

Receipts.	£	s.	d.		Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1917.....	12	1	1		By Attendances—Executive Meetings	7	15	11
" Grant from Co-operative Union.....	25	18	5		" District Conferences	20	12	6
" Subscriptions from Societies	8	4	0		" General Printing and Stationery	0	7	6
					" Postages	0	11	7
					" Hours and Wages Board	1	3	3
Audited—					" Delegate to Congress	5	13	4
JOHN LISTER.					" Balance in hand of Treasurer, 31st Dec., 1917	9	19	5
	<u>£46</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>			<u>£46</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

EDWIN HART, Hon. Secretary.

No. 10.—SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. R. Bridgewater (chairman), Newtown.	Mr A. H. Jones, Shrewsbury.
„ E. Griffiths (secretary), Shrewsbury.	„ J. Pessall, Oakengates.
„ B. J. Wilkinson, Ironbridge.	„ E. Evans, Oswestry.
„ J. R. Williams, Chirk.	„ T. Morris, St. Martin's.

We have pleasure in presenting our third report of the work accomplished in the Shropshire and Mid-Wales area.

Notwithstanding the adverse circumstances produced by the prolongation of the war, it is gratifying to note the continued growth and progress of co-operation in the district.

Now that all societies are included in the Midland Section, it becomes possible to effectively gauge the value of the work accomplished since the district's inception.

Each year since its formation the Shropshire and Mid-Wales district has recorded splendid progress. In connection with the last period for which statistics are available the percentage of increases on the previous year are as follows :—Membership, 9 per cent; capital, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; trade, $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. For a rural area with an extremely scattered population such a result may be regarded as highly satisfactory.

Four conferences have been held during the year, as follows :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
1917.			
23rd June .	Chirk	The undesirableness of a Service Time Limit for Committee-men.	Mr. J. Pessall.
23rd Sept. .	St. Martin's.	Trade Unionism under present-day conditions.	Mr. T. Morris.
8th Dec. . .	Welshpool .	Co-operative National Policy and Programme.	Mr. E. Griffiths.
1918.			
23rd March	Shrewsbury.	Parliamentary and Local Representation.	Mr. A. H. Jones.

A very gratifying feature of the year's conferences has been the increasing number of delegates attending, and undoubtedly much good has accrued to societies as a result of the subjects discussed.

During the period under consideration the Executive Committee has instituted its third district propaganda campaign. A somewhat extensive programme has been operated throughout the district, and it is pleasurable to report that the enthusiasm created in previous campaigns has shown no diminution in connection with the past year's operations. Management committees have collaborated with the district executive in a most praiseworthy manner, with the result that crowded audiences have been secured at all meetings. The campaign has provided a unique opportunity for placing before the members of societies visited the disadvantages of a war-time period from a trading point of view, and it has been found that much good has been accomplished on behalf of societies in this direction.

Enthusiastic meetings have been held at Clee Hill, Whitchurch, Ludlow, Shrewsbury, Welshpool, Oakengates, Newtown, Coalbrookdale, Madeley, Craven Arms, Chirk, Donnington, Oswestry, and Aberystwyth. It is estimated that the total attendance at the whole of the meetings held numbers 10,000 persons. As in previous years, a collection has been taken at each meeting on behalf of charitable and patriotic funds, the total amount realised yielding the very creditable sum of £67. 14s., which has been duly handed over to the institutions concerned.

The district executive desire to record their appreciation of the splendid assistance so readily given by the Joint Propaganda Committee, which has contributed very largely to the success of the campaign.

Another commendable feature of the year's work has been the publication of the association's quarterly magazine. As a factor in assisting to maintain interest and enthusiasm in the official life of societies, the district *Review* accomplishes successfully a most useful purpose. Notwithstanding the higher cost of production, the magazine has again been self-supporting from a

MIDLAND SECTION CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES' ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. Hackett (president), Bournville.	Mr. R. Naylor, Sutton-in-Ashfield.
„ A. Wyld (treasurer), Eastwood, Notts.	Miss Turner, Lincoln.
Miss C. A. Woolley (hon. sec.), Leicester.	Mr. W. Jackson, Tamworth.
Mrs. F. Stein, Birmingham.	„ E. Webb, Northampton.
Mr. W. Andrews, Coventry.	Mrs. Dewsbury, Walsall.
„ George Stanton, South Wigston.	Mr. George Harris, Lincoln.
„ H. J. Potter, Kettering.	„ H. H. Howkins, Wigston Magna.

The educational work of the Association has made great strides during the year, fulfilling the demands laid down by the Central Educational Committee to justify our existence, by trying to make our conferences more of an educational value and more attractive, so as to arouse the delegates to a sense of their own individual responsibility.

The need for unity was never greater than it is to-day, and the committee feel encouraged by the increased numbers attending the quarterly conferences, and also by those societies and guilds that have recently joined the Association.

There are suggestions in the Survey Report that educational associations should make a vigorous canvass of all unattached societies, guilds, and associations of employees, in order to secure their membership; our Association has forwarded such a circular, with a pamphlet by Professor Hall, to every society in this section, and we as a committee are grateful with the results, eleven societies and guilds having joined the association through this effort during the year.

Our first week-end school, which was such a distinct success, is perhaps partly responsible for the increase in membership.

We are pleased to know that good work is being done by organising educational work among the workers of co-operative productive societies. The joint Co-partnership Association in the Midland Section has held its first week-end school at Sileby. We wish them every success in their future efforts.

The literature of the co-operative movement we would strongly recommend to all our members, and efforts should be made by education committees of distributive societies to make it possible for every member to obtain a copy of the *News*, &c.; we would like to point out that it is the duty of education committees to look after the interests of individual members who are desirous of keeping up with the progress of our movement.

Mention should be made of the new programme and syllabus of classes which the Co-operative Union have issued this year; they are printed in a much more interesting form than has hitherto been done, and education com-

mittees would do well to secure copies for their committee members and teachers of classes, as there is much valuable information to be gained.

Committees should encourage their teachers to attend the summer schools or give them the opportunity by giving scholarships; encourage the formation of men's and women's guilds, young people's circles, children's classes, classes for employees, which are more necessary, seeing we are taking in employees from unco-operative sources.

We would like to see more co-ordination between educational committees and the guilds. Reading circles or discussion classes would be more successful if worked jointly with the two committees, thus we should avoid overlapping and more interest would be taken by the guilds in the work of the education committee, so that we might believe in the motto—"Unity is Strength."

Five committee meetings have been held during the year.

The annual meeting, which was held at Wellingborough, was well attended. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. John Cox (Ilkeston) was again elected hon. auditor for the year. The report and balance sheet was approved without much question. Alterations to Rules 3, 6, and 12 were all carried unanimously. The Northampton resolution, which was passed to come into force at the annual meeting—"That each district should have a representative on the executive"—needed careful counting, seeing there were nine districts and eleven members on the Executive (two districts have two members). Mr. Hackett then opened the discussion on "The Possibilities of a Week-end School." The college was our ideal, but the week-end school opened up many advantages which was not possible to get in our conferences. He hoped that a school would be arranged by the Association.

Our second conference was held under the auspices of the Wigston Hosiers Co-partnership Society, when Mr. George Stanton read his paper on "What Co-operators Want from Education," a paper full of educational value, and one that might be referred to again and again.

Our first week-end school was held at Woodbrooke Settlement from 31st August to 3rd September, 1917, and was in every way an unqualified success and of great educational value to all who had the pleasure of attending. Eighty-two students, representing about thirty-six societies, were present, many attending a school for the first time. Councillor T. Hackett (president of the Association) welcomed the students on the Friday, when a very enjoyable social evening was spent. Mr. Barratt Browne, M.A., gave a lecture on "The Ideals of Education." Professor Hall, M.A. (Adviser of Studies), gave four lectures; and Mr. Herbert Wood, M.A., Warden of Woodbrooke, gave the closing lecture. Some of us had heard Professor Hall many times before, but never to such advantage as at the school at Woodbrooke.

A joint conference was held in the Lecture Hall on Saturday afternoon, and was attended by 160 delegates, including the students. Mr. W. Millerchip, J.P., addressed the conference on the question of "Educational Reconstruction," and touched upon many points affecting the new Education Bill.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

	1917.	1918.
Societies.....	54 ..	61
Women's Guilds..	24 ..	29
Men's Guilds.....	1 ..	2
A.U.C.E.	1 ..	—
	<u>80</u>	<u>92</u>

Audited—
JOHN COX.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE.

	£	s.	d.
Birmingham, Sparkhill			
Guild	0	2	6
Coalville	2	2	0
Coventry	2	2	0
" Guild	0	2	6
Hinckley	0	2	6
Hucknall	1	1	0
Langley Mill Guild	0	2	6
" Eastwood Guild..	0	2	6
Lincoln	4	4	0
Ripley	0	2	6

	10	6	6
Balance	26	5	3

Present Balance with
Treasurer..... £36 11 9

WOODBROOKE SCHOOL.

	£	s.	d.
Receipts.....	50	4	0
Payments	50	11	9

Cost of School to Association..... £0 7 9

Full Time Students ..	60
Part Time Students ..	17
Non-resident Students.	5

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C. A. WOOLLEY, Secretary.

CO-OPERATIVE CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. J. Wright (president), Annesley Woodhouse.	Mr. C. Marshall, Long Eaton,	} Joint Hon. Secretaries.
„ T. Mather (vice-president), Lincoln.	„ T. H. Edinborough,	
„ J. Shelton (treasurer), Ilkeston.	Long Eaton,	

Following so successful a year's work as that given in last report, the committee could hardly hope to eclipse such a record during the continuance of the war, with all its attendant difficulties; yet the senior festival at Derby, on 13th October, gave abundant proof of the continuous progress achieved by the Association as a whole, and also by the individual choirs, who so worthily demonstrated the boundless possibilities of choral music and the ever-developing higher standard attained by the various soloists. Despite the lack of male voices, the report on the festival sent to the committee by Dr. W. G. McNaught was of a most encouraging character, not only on account of its musical value, but also because it conveyed to the committee an indication of the real importance of the movement and to the nation of

the particular work in which they have been engaged for the past sixteen years. The following sentences from the judge's report will emphasise this fact:—"It is a pleasure to be able to congratulate the promoters of the festival upon the wonderful success of the scheme. That in these times of trouble and preoccupation of the mind, so many persons were drawn to compete or attend is a renewed proof, if one were lacking, of the beneficent effect of music on the mind. . . . I was greatly struck by the skill shown by the conductors of choirs and the enthusiastic responsiveness of the singers. The capacity shown generally was most gratifying. Some of the choral performances were of the highest grade. It was notable that nearly all the choirs got 90 out of 100 marks for one or other of their pieces; and I judged them by a high standard. The solo singing, too, brought forward some delightful performances of high merit, that would be found attractive to any general audience. The best of the soloists were evidently full of the idea of finding a proper interpretation of the spirit of the song, and were not intent on exhibiting merely their voice. . . ."

The financial success of the Derby festival—due in great measure to the magnificent manner in which all local arrangements were carried out by the society—has placed the Association in an excellent position; and the junior and senior festivals decided upon for the 1918 season are only a part of the propaganda work outlined at recent meetings, besides the steps taken to increase the number of choirs in the section. The committee have in mind the possibility of inter-sectional festivals, when peace once more restores our nation to something of a regular condition of civil life; and also the revival of a national musical festival, under the auspices of the Co-operative Union, with which the sectional bodies are all linked up.

JOSEPH WRIGHT, President.

CHARLES MARSHALL,	} Joint Hon.
THOS. H. EDINBOROUGH,	

Secretaries.

(3) NORTHERN SECTION.

During the Congress year the Sectional Board has held fifteen meetings, twelve of which were ordinary and three special. The attendance of members being as follows:—

	Present.	Absent.	Possible.
Mr. J. C. Aiston	15	—	15
„ G. Bedford	13	2	15
„ J. Davison	13	2	15
„ S. Galbraith, M.P.	8	7	15
„ J. Murdoch	7	8	15
„ W. R. Rae	12	3	15
„ W. Scott	13	2	15

In each case where members have been absent, satisfactory reasons were given.

HON. MEMBERS.

Mr. H. R. Bailey, J.P.

Mr. W. Crooks, J.P.

At the meeting held on 9th June, 1917, the following appointments were made:—

Chairman of the Section Mr. J. Murdoch.

Representatives on the—

United Board Messrs. J. Murdoch and S. Galbraith, M.P.

Educational Committee Mr. W. R. Rae.

Sectional Office Committee—

Messrs. Aiston, Bedford, Davison, and Scott.

During the year co-operative societies have been faced with exceptional and increasing difficulties, which have made the work of administration exceedingly arduous. The conditions created by the war have provided a test of the value of the co-operative movement—as a purely democratic organisation—in a national crisis. It can justly be claimed that the movement so far has stood that test. We are living too near the actual occurrences to be able to appraise at its real value the service which co-operation has rendered to the community in this, the most trying time in our country's history. But there has been sufficient evidence forthcoming to justify the belief that, with a fair field, co-operation, even as we know it, is capable of meeting the needs of the people better than any other form of distributive trade. To secure just treatment, however, the movement must be united, watchful, articulate, and insistent.

The work of the Sectional Board during the past Congress year has been, despite abnormal circumstances, on the whole successful. Matters of great importance to individual societies and the section generally have been dealt with, and the policy pursued throughout has been to bring about greater unity and co-ordination of effort between societies.

HOURS AND WAGES BOARD.

The annual sectional conference, held at Blaydon on 5th May, 1917, had before it the question of district hours and wages boards. Circulars submitting alternative methods and asking for replies had previously been sent out to all societies in the section. The replies received revealed marked differences of opinion in regard to the question, and the whole matter again received the attention of the Board, who submitted the following resolution, which received the almost unanimous approval of the conference, viz. :—

That in order to obviate the difficulties in the way of setting up separate "hours and wages boards" for each district and the additional machinery in the section, the Northern Sectional Board for the time being shall, in addition to its ordinary functions, constitute the "hours and wages board" for the whole section, and in the performance of the functions devolving upon such boards, shall have power to call in a representative from the Committee of the Conference Association of the district directly affected by any dispute, and also, for consultative purposes, any representative or representatives of societies immediately affected.

Considerable delay occurred in arriving at a decision on the mode of procedure to be adopted by the Northern District Council of the A.U.C.E. and the "Wages Board" in dealing with wages questions, and it was not until December, 1917, that the matter was finally settled. In the meantime several societies were appealing to the Board to take up wages questions on their behalf, and in one case a regrettable strike took place. There can be no doubt that if the "Wages Board" had been in a position to deal with this particular case, Northern co-operators would have been saved the humiliating spectacle of a strike in a co-operative society. The "Sectional Hours and Wages Board" has met four times, and there is reason for anticipating that in the future valuable service will be rendered to the section through its efforts.

SCALE OF SALARIES FOR MANAGERS AND SECRETARIES.

The Managers and Secretaries' Associations having submitted for acceptance by the societies in the section a scale of salaries based upon sales, it was found necessary to convene a sectional conference for the purpose of having the proposals put forward, collectively discussed. This conference was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on 29th September, and decided against the adoption of any set scale of remuneration for the services of managers and secretaries. The associations concerned do not feel satisfied with this decision,

and have requested the Board to again consider the matter with a view to another conference being called, at which the managers and secretaries would be given an opportunity of stating their own case, answering questions, and suggesting that the whole question be taken up by the Sectional Hours and Wages Board. This matter is now under consideration.

DISTRICT WAGES ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

One of the main difficulties facing the "Hours and Wages Board" in dealing with questions of wages and related matters affecting the various societies in the section lay in the apparent lack of method which prevailed. Each society seemed to take its own course, irrespective of how others might be affected by its action. Considerable dissatisfaction began to be expressed, too, owing to an impression gaining ground that demands were being periodically made upon individual societies without any regard having been had as to how these societies stood in relation to the general level of wages paid by other societies operating in similar areas. In order that the situation might be reviewed and steps taken to bring about a more satisfactory state of affairs, the Sectional Board decided to submit recommendations to a sectional conference for the formation of District Wages Advisory Committees.

This conference, which was well attended, was held in Newcastle on 19th January, 1918, when the recommendation of the Sectional Board to set up in each of the districts comprising the Northern Section a "Wages Advisory Committee" (the constitution, objects, and functions of which were set forth in such recommendation) was unanimously approved. The several committees are now being got into working order, and it is confidently expected that as a result of their operations greater uniformity of method and united action will be secured in the section.

SUBSTITUTED FEMALE LABOUR AGREEMENT.

Clause 5 of the agreement governing the employment of substituted female labour, which came into force on 30th October, 1916, precluded the payment of war bonus to substituted female workers. A claim to have the clause so modified as to permit of war bonus being paid was put forward by the A.U.C.E., and at the sectional conference held on 19th January, 1918, the point was submitted for decision.

The conference unanimously agreed to admit the claim, and instructed the "Wages Board" to act for and on behalf of the societies in determining the terms of such modification and the amount of war bonus to be paid. The "Wages Board" at once entered into negotiations with the A.U.C.E., and an agreement was come to, which, speaking generally, has given satisfaction to societies, that the clause in question should be modified so as to read thus:—

Clause 5. The rates above decided shall, as from 9th February, 1918, be supplemented by a war bonus of five shillings per week to female substitutes of the age of 21 and over, and three shillings per week to junior female substitutes, who in each case have served the probationary

period provided for in clause 1 of this agreement, and in future any application for war bonus or other matters referring to substituted females shall be made through the Hours and Wages Board, acting for and on behalf of the societies in the Northern Section.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

This question has been—especially since the Swansea and special (London) conferences—in active consideration throughout the section. Several societies have linked up with the scheme; a number have approved the principle and are taking steps to alter their rules so as to make it possible to fall into line, and others have the question still under consideration. Each district association in the section has been advised by the Board to concentrate on this question, and there is good reason to believe that the section will finally show equal loyalty in this matter to that shown in their attitude to co-operative enterprises in the past.

FEDERATION.

The policy of federation, especially of comparatively small societies in suitable geographical areas, has for some time been the settled policy of the Sectional Board. It is becoming increasingly clear that in order to enable small societies to maintain their place and prestige in the movement a fuller recognition of identity of interests and aims is becoming more and more essential. Societies are beginning to recognise this fact, and in the western portion of No. 4 District a movement is on foot having for its object the federation of six or seven societies in that locality. Several meetings of members have been addressed by members of the Sectional Board, and the outcome of negotiations now in progress between the societies concerned is awaited with great interest.

Negotiations for the acquiring of the Blaydon Society's bakery by a group of neighbouring societies have been proceeding. Valuations have been made and accepted by the group, and the decisions of the quarterly meetings of several societies are now awaited. It is probable that, but for the abnormal conditions now prevailing, this federation would by this time have been an accomplished fact.

AMALGAMATION.

It is hoped that when in the near future the voice of the co-operative movement is heard in the legislature of our country, it will be raised against the continuance of an enactment which prevents the fusion of interests of two or more co-operative societies except by the passing of a special resolution which requires an almost impossible three-fourths majority. During the year—and for the second time in their history—two prominent societies in the Tyneside area entered into negotiations with a view to amalgamation. When the matter was submitted for decision, in the one case the resolution was approved with practical unanimity, in the other the requisite majority fell short by less than a dozen votes.

WINDY NOOK TRAGEDY FUND.

During the year £57. 4s. has been paid to the widow and children of the late J. Patterson, and the amount standing to the credit of this fund as at 31st December, 1917, was £706. 4s. 3d.

ALSTON SOCIETY.

The whole of the share capital of this society has been written up, and is now in a satisfactory position.

The financial position of one or two societies in the section is giving cause for anxiety, and the matter is having the attention of the Board.

1919 CONGRESS.

If matters had pursued their normal course the Congress of 1918 would have been held in the Northern Section. Owing, however, to the fact that the year 1918 marked the jubilee of the Co-operative Congress, the claim of the section was waived in favour of Manchester district, on the understanding that the Congress of 1919 would be held in the North. Acting on this understanding, circulars have been sent out to each society in the section asking for invitations from societies in a position to entertain the Congress. Owing largely to the uncertainty prevailing as to whether Congress would meet at all in 1918, societies have delayed in forwarding invitations. Since, however, it has been finally decided that Congress shall meet this year, it is expected that invitations will now be sent, and these will be dealt with in the usual way.

NORTHERN DISTRICT CONCILIATION BOARD.

During the year three cases have come before this Board, two of which were settled, the third being sent to the National Board for decision.

GILSLAND CONVALESCENT HOME.

The report and balance sheet, just issued, gives evidence that this valuable institution is feeling the strain of abnormal conditions. The maintenance account shows a net deficiency for the year of £1,187. 0s. 11d., and under the circumstances the directors are asking the shareholders to agree, without any alteration of rule, to a temporary revision of charges, which involves a substantial increase in the amount that has hitherto been paid both by convalescents and visitors. Having regard to the present high cost of commodities, the prices recommended for 1918 cannot be regarded as excessive. These are as follow :—

Convalescents, 40s. per fortnight;

Visitors at the Home, 30s. per week; and

Visitors at Spa Villa, 40s. per week.

The bank overdraft still remains at a relatively high figure, and an appeal to increase their shares in accordance with increase of membership has been made to the shareholding societies.

EDUCATIONAL.

The conditions now prevailing militate seriously against the formation of classes for the study of co-operation and related subjects, especially as regards the employees of societies. Depletion of staffs and the consequent increased demands made upon the workers who are left has created an atmosphere which is not conducive to educational work of this kind. Successful women's classes have been formed, first and second year courses at Jarrow and Sunderland; second year's course at Ashington; and first year's course at Carlisle. Bookkeeping classes have also been formed in connection with the Birtley Society at the Central and branch at Washington.

OBITUARY.

Mr. G. Lowes.

On 11th September there passed out at Consett, in the person of Mr. Geo. Lowes, one of the pioneers of the co-operative movement in the North. A man of strong convictions and powerful personality, he played for a long period an important part in co-operative affairs. He was connected with the Consett Society for over forty-five years. He was first elected to the committee in the year 1872, and in 1879 he was elected president of the society (succeeding Mr J. Curry, the first president). This position he held continuously for thirty years, resigning owing to failing health in 1909. He was also a member of the committee of the Gilsland Convalescent Home from the period of its inception until his death.

J. MURDOCH, Chairman.

A. STODDART, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Gillians, J.P. (chairman), Ashington.	Mr. T. Jackson, Pegswood.
G. Hardy (secretary), Bank Top, Bedlington.	„ J. Herdman, Newbiggin.
„ R. Lee, Bedlington.	„ J. Magin, Ashington.
	„ J. Robson, Cambois.

Mr. J. Davison, Bedlington, Sectional Representative.

Six conferences have been held during 1917, at which the attendance has been satisfactory.

The first conference was held at Bebside on 24th February, at which Mr. John Wardle (of Cambois), in a very able and exhaustive paper, dealt with "The Need for Co-operative Dairies in the District." The paper was well received, and an interesting discussion followed, in which Mr. Welsh (of Newbiggin), Mr. Clayton (of the Co-operative Wholesale Society), and others

took part. A resolution drawing the attention of the Wholesale Society to the pressing need for securing land in the North for dairying purposes, moved by Mr. Magin (of Ashington), was unanimously approved, as was also another moved by Mr. Welsh instructing the District Committee to make inquiries as to suitable farms available.

The second conference was held at Broomhill on 19th May, when the question of milk was again dealt with by Mr. John Ritson in an interesting paper on "Pure Milk Supply," with special reference to the work done by the North Seaton dairy farm. A well-sustained discussion followed, and a resolution approved instructing the secretary to circularise societies in the district with a view of ascertaining whether they are in favour of immediate action being taken to acquire land and form a federation for the control of milk production and distribution.

The third conference was held in the Co-operative Hall, Ashington, on 30th June, at which Mr. T. Welsh (of Newbiggin), in an able and incisive address, advocated the "Federation of Societies in the District for the period of the War," and submitted a resolution bearing thereon. After a prolonged and lively discussion it was agreed to adjourn further consideration of the matter until the managers of societies had been given an opportunity of examining the proposals put forward.

The fourth conference was held at Morpeth on 28th July, at which the milk question was again discussed, an interesting and exhaustive report of the proceedings at Swansea Congress given by Mr. A. Fisher, and the question of "federation for the period of the war" further dealt with. Mr. J. Hudson (manager of Bedlington Society) submitted a resolution favouring amalgamation rather than federation. After a full discussion, in which many of the delegates took part, it was decided to submit the whole question to a vote of the societies.

At a fifth conference, held at Pegswood on 15th September, the result of the vote of societies on "Amalgamation or Federation" was declared, and showed that the district was fairly evenly divided on the matter, and the whole question was remitted to the district conference to deal with. A resolution affirming the necessity of cash trading was agreed to.

The sixth conference was held at Cambois on 15th December, at which the Sectional Secretary dealt with the question of "Co-operative Representation in Parliament." An interesting discussion followed.

The thanks of the Executive are due to societies who have entertained the conferences and provided tea for delegates.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office		15	6	11	By Conferences		10	5	11
					„ Executive Meetings		4	16	6
					„ Postages		0	6	6
		£15	6	11			£15	6	11

G. HARDY, Secretary.

No. 2.—SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Endean (chairman), Cramlington.	Mr. T. Whitnell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
„ J. Wight (secretary), Cramlington.	„ J. Kirkham, North Shields.
„ T. G. Hunter, Wallsend.	„ J. Henderson, Coxlodge.
	„ J. McKay, Walker.

Mr. J. C. Aiston, Sectional Representative, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The first conference was held at North Shields on 28th April, 1917. Mr. A. Stoddart (sectional secretary) read his paper, "Co-operative Commonwealth: The Next Step," to a large number of delegates. There was a very favourable discussion, and the delegates directed the Executive Committee to follow Mr. Stoddart's suggestion and set up committees for consultative purposes in the district. This has been done, the district being divided into two sections—for industrial and geographical reasons. It is hoped that good results will accrue from these meetings.

The next conference was held at the Dinnington Colliery Branch of the Cramlington Co-operative Society on 6th October, 1917. Mr. J. C. Aiston read Mr. R. Whitfield's paper on "Overlapping: Its Consequences and Remedy." All the delegates agreed as to the evils of overlapping, but there were great differences of opinion as to the practicability of the remedy suggested, and no direct result was arrived at by the conference.

The next conference was held at Willington Quay, when Mr. Stoddart delivered an address on "Direct Representation in Parliament." There was a very animated discussion, several speakers being strongly against the proposal. So great were the number of speakers on the subject that after a two-hours sitting the conference was adjourned in order that full and complete opportunity should be given to all delegates to express their opinion.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	10 19 9	By Conferences	4 0 9
		„ Executive Meetings	6 11 11
		„ Postages	0 7 1
	£10 19 9		£10 19 9

J. WIGHT, Secretary.

No. 3.—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Irving Graham, J.P. (chairman), Carlisle,	Mr. John Stephenson, Blennerhasset.
„ J. W. Mackay (secretary), Moor Row.	„ T. H. Walker, Penrith.
„ N. Ismay, Maryport.	„ J. Hunt, Workington.
	„ H. Tyson, Egremont.

Mr. J. Murdoch, Workington, Sectional Representative.

There have been three district conferences held during the year, and two special conferences of managers, secretaries, and committee-men. The conferences have been well attended, and are an earnest of better things in this district.

The first conference was held in the Co-operative Hall, Maryport, on 24th February, 1917. Mr. J. A. Thomas (secretary of Egremont Society) read Mr. H. J. May's paper on "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax." A good discussion followed, and a resolution was unanimously carried protesting against the imposition of income tax upon co-operative societies as distinct from private traders, and calling upon the Government to give equal treatment to all. Mr. King (Co-operative Wholesale Society) seconded the resolution, and the discussion was continued by Mr. W. Hunt (Workington), Mr. Barnes (Carlisle), and others.

The second conference of the year was held at Aspatria on 12th May, 1917. Mr. A. Stoddart (sectional secretary) read his paper, "Co-operative Commonwealth: The Next Step." The paper was well received. It revealed many weak points in the co-operative movement, but also showed how these weaknesses could be remedied. The chief points were competition and overlapping, with their consequent waste of energy, time, and capital. An instructive discussion followed, led by Mr. I. Graham, J.P. (Carlisle), Mr. J. Murdoch (Workington), who believed the co-operative commonwealth practicable. Mr. King (Co-operative Wholesale Society) advised the delegates to go home and seriously consider the points in Mr. Stoddart's paper in their respective committees, and then call another conference. Mr. Thomas (Egremont) emphasised the need for educating the children in matters co-operatively. Mr. Temple (Aspatria), Mr. W. J. Murray (Cleator Moor), and Mr. W. Hunt (Workington) also spoke. The conferences of managers, secretaries, &c., are a result of this splendid paper.

The third district conference was held in the Hall of the Carlisle Co-operative Society on 4th August, 1917. Mr. Riddle (secretary of Carlisle Co-operative Society) read Professor Hall's Congress paper, "The Economic Results of the War and Their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement." The paper was well read, and received careful consideration. It was felt that a new era, pregnant with vast possibilities, had dawned upon the co-operative movement. The plea for more education amongst the members, the removal of all restrictions upon capital, the desire for a closer union and cohesion among the democracy, the condemnation of high dividends, were symptomatic of the trend of co-operation. Those who took part in the discussion were:—Mr. King (Co-operative Wholesale Society), Mr. Graham (Carlisle), Mr. Murdoch and Mrs. Taylor (Carlisle), Mr. Barnes and Mr. Nixon (Workington), Mr. Larkin (Cleator Moor), and others. A gratifying feature of the year has been the good attendance of members of the "Women's Co-operative Guild."

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	28	0 11	By Conferences	15	9 6
			„ Executive Meetings	12	4 4
			„ Postages	0	7 1
	£28	0 11		£28	0 11

J. W. MACKAY, Secretary.

No. 4.—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Isaac C. Nixon (chairman), West Stanley.	Mr. Geo. Greener, Prudhoe.
„ R. Steel (secretary), Holmlea, Newburn.	„ E. Y. Spencer, Swalwell.
„ E. Hargreaves, Newburn.	„ W. Harrison, Tantobie.
	„ E. Saunders, Consett.

Mr. W. Scott, Blaydon, Sectional Representative.

Four conferences have been held during the year, at each of which the attendance has been very satisfactory.

To the initial conference, held at Throckley in March, 1917, Mr. A. Stoddart (sectional secretary) gave an address—"Co-operative Commonwealth: The Next Step"—in which he forcibly argued the necessity for the development within the movement of a co-operative consciousness, without which solidarity is impossible. To make a move towards this end, Mr. Stoddart suggested the grouping of societies in areas which, geographically and economically, lend themselves to closer union, with a view to eliminating competition, and substituting another force of greater power, that of emulation, and at the same time carry out a scheme which would place co-operative societies in a position to defy competitive trade. After discussion, the following resolution was submitted and unanimously carried, viz. :—

That this conference welcomes and supports the suggestions of Mr. Stoddart to arrange for the managers and officials of societies situated in areas geographically suited for the purpose to be brought together to discuss the best ways and means of co-operating in the interests of all concerned, and we request the Committee of No. 4 District to prepare a plan of sub-division of the district into groups, as aforesaid, with that object in view, and report the result to the next district conference.

At the second conference, held at Tantobie, June, 1917, Mr. Stoddart's paper, "Co-operative Commonwealth: The Next Step," was read by Mr. Hall (secretary, Tantobie Society), and the chairman (Mr. Nixon) gave a report of the committee's action towards the institution of groups. The conference expressed its appreciation of the committee's efforts, and pledged itself to use its utmost endeavours to secure the success of the scheme in hand.

Two well-defined areas were agreed upon—the former (Group 1) comprising in the main the West Durham societies; the latter (Group 2) the South Northumberland societies. Subsequent meetings of representatives revealed a multiplicity of varying conditions extant among the respective societies; but Mr. Whitfield (general manager, West Stanley Society) presented to the third conference, which was held at Hexham, a very valuable and practical solution of the major problems in his paper, "Overlapping: Its Consequences and Remedy." While the conference was unanimous in

its appreciation of Mr. Whitfield's paper and his efforts towards the solution of existing evils, it was evident that the meeting was divided as between the evolutionary methods towards "federation" as propounded by Mr. Whitfield and the more revolutionary step of "federation" forthwith. Ultimately Group 1 arrived at the following decision, as a temporary arrangement, i.e., for the period of the war and six months after :—

1. The fixing of geographical areas.
2. Exchange of members within such areas.

This work is now in the hands of a special committee, from whom a report is shortly anticipated.

In Group 2, though progress may be termed slow, it has been none the less sure, and one feels that while even at the present time the area is benefiting from the operations of the committee the near future will bring still greater cohesion and unanimity among the respective societies.

Mr. W. R. Rae (Central Board, Northern Section) was requisitioned for the fourth conference, held at West Stanley in December last, and he gave a vigorous and explicit enunciation of the movement's present position and needs, thus necessitating "Direct Representation in Parliament," the subject of his address, pointing out that if co-operation has to come into its own it must stand upon its feet and play the man.

The speakers were severally accorded the thanks of the respective conferences, as were also the entertaining societies.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	18	7	5		By Conferences		9	15	7
					„ Executive Meetings		7	16	4
					„ Postage, &c.		0	15	6
							£18	7	5

R. STEEL, Secretary.

No. 5.—EAST DURHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Thos. Wallace (chairman), Hebburn Colliery.	Mr. S. Bramley, Jarrow.
„ Thomas Ross (secretary), Felling.	„ A. D. Franks, Boldon Colliery.
„ W. Johnson, Birtley.	„ William Flynn, Gateshead.
	„ J. Wonders, S. Shields.

Mr. W. R. Rae, Sunderland, Sectional Representative.

We have held four conferences during the year. The attendance at each conference has been particularly good, and the interest of the delegates well sustained throughout.

The first conference was held at West Pelton on Saturday, 28th April, 1917, on the premises of the Co-operative Society, West Pelton. The subject was "The Advantage of a Federated Bakery," which was introduced by Mr. Clayton (Co-operative Wholesale Society Board). In his address Mr. Clayton

emphasised the importance of the idea of federation in its general application to the work of the co-operative movement, and also urged the wisdom of supplying the principle of federation to the bakers in No. 5 District, not only in the interests of the bakery business, but also as a means of bringing the societies into closer touch with each other for purposes of general distribution. A discussion followed, in which a number of the delegates took part, and the district secretary was ultimately instructed to ascertain from the societies in the district the amount of their bakery purchases from co-operative bakeries and the amount of their purchases from other sources. The secretary was also instructed to ascertain the output of the various co-operative bakeries within the area covered by the conference.

The second conference was held at Birtley, on the premises of the Birtley Co-operative Society, 16th June. This conference was specially called to consider the need of such concerted action as would secure uniformity of markets, distributive prices, &c.

Mr. Gilliland (vice-president of Birtley Society) opened the discussion. In his address he urged not only the wisdom, but the absolute necessity, of societies getting more into unison with regard to their methods of pricing, &c., and he stigmatised the distasteful custom of overlapping, so prevalent among societies. A very interesting discussion ensued, in which the subject of dual rationing of supplies was very prominent. In order that the societies might safeguard themselves against members getting their supplies from two societies, the conference resolved that the managers of the various societies in the district be asked to meet regularly for the purpose of co-ordinating their business, and that a committee also be formed of representatives from the various societies for the purpose of giving executive sanction to the managers' suggestions. This has given rise to what may be described as the group idea, and the application of this idea has already been of considerable advantage to the various districts of the Northern Section.

The third conference was held in the Victoria Hall, Murton Colliery, on 25th August, 1917. The subject at this conference was a paper by Mr. Whitfield (manager of the West Stanley Society) dealing with "Overlapping: Its Consequences and Remedy." In the absence of Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Stoddart (sectional secretary) read the paper, and Mr. J. Laidler (manager of Murton Society) opened the discussion. It was resolved that the paper be referred to the managers of the district for their consideration.

The fourth conference was held 24th November, 1917, at Tyne Dock, on the premises of the Tyne Dock Society. At this conference Mr. Flynn (a member of the District Committee) introduced the subject of "Direct Parliamentary Co-operative Representation." The conference generally was distinctly in agreement with the idea that the co-operative movement ought to seek to influence legislation, and after a number of delegates had expressed themselves in appreciation of the principle of direct representation, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Pringle (Chester-le-Street) and seconded by Mr. Johnson (Birtley), was carried :—

That this conference considers it not only advisable, but necessary, that the co-operators should be directly represented in Parliament.

The fifth conference was held at Boldon Colliery, on 2nd February, 1918. At this conference Mr. Stoddart read his paper specially prepared on the subject, "Direct Representation of Co-operators in Parliament." The paper was most highly appreciated, although the discussion did not keep so closely to the issues raised by Mr. Stoddart as could be desired. The following resolution was ultimately agreed to :—

That societies in each of the Parliamentary divisions within the area of No. 5 District be requested to proceed at once with the formation of local councils on the lines laid down in the scheme submitted by the Union.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	16	17 7	By Conferences .. .	9	6 0
			„ Executive Meetings .. .	7	11 7
	£16	17 7		£16	17 7

THOMAS ROSS, District Secretary.

No. 6.—SOUTH DURHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. M. Price (chairman), Ferryhill.	Mr. J. W. Strickland, Willington.
„ J. Davison (secretary), Newbottle.	„ W. Emery, Station Town.
„ Joseph Bell, Tow Law.	„ S. Whiteley, Langley Moor
„ T. Readshaw, Bishop Auckland.	

Mr. S. Galbraith, M.P., Durham, Sectional Representative.

There have been four conferences held during the year, and the attendances have been good. The questions dealt with have been of present importance to societies, and interest has been well maintained.

The first conference was held at Shildon on 17th March. Mr. Shaw (president of Bishop Auckland Society), in an able and felicitous speech, welcomed the delegates, and Mr. Price (chairman of the district) extended on behalf of the conference a hearty greeting to the sectional secretary, who submitted for consideration his paper, "Co-operative Commonwealth: The Next Step." The paper was well received and provoked a lively discussion, which was taken part in by Messrs. Liddle, Pennington, Thompson, Coley, (Co-operative Wholesale Society), Price, Shaw, Mrs. O'Connor, and others. As an outcome of this paper, a series of conferences of groups of societies in the district have been held, which, we believe, will have the effect of bringing individual societies into closer relations with each other.

The second conference was held, under the auspices of the Coxhoe Society, on 9th June, at which Mr. Strickland gave an able and exhaustive report of the Swansea Congress. Mr. John Ball (president of Coxhoe Society) opened

the discussion, which was taken part in by a large number of delegates, including Messrs. Galbraith, Readshaw, Bower, Gibson, Bell, Liddle, and Price. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Strickland for his able report.

The third conference was held at New Brancepeth on 15th September. At this conference Mr. Emery read a paper by Mr. R. Whitfield (general manager of West Stanley Society) on "Overlapping: Its Consequences and Remedy." In this paper the writer propounded a comparatively simple method of eliminating the evils of overlapping without interfering with the membership or capital of any society involved. The discussion revealed a very pronounced divergence of opinion as to the practicability of Mr. Whitfield's scheme, but everyone agreed as to the clear grip of the situation displayed by the writer and the ability with which he had presented his case.

The fourth conference was held at Newbottle on 22nd December, when Mr. A. Stoddart introduced the question of "Co-operative Representation in Parliament." The speaker, in his address, laid down the reasons for the action taken by the movement, and argued that the policy advocated was not altogether or even mainly defensive, and that the real significance of the step which had been taken lay in the nature of co-operation itself, which constituted the only real constructive force in existence. The discussion was opened by Mr. Martyn (of Newbottle), and was continued by Mrs. Wilkins, Messrs. Galbraith, Readshaw, Bell, Snowden, Whiteley, and others.

A resolution moved by Mr. Snowden (Willington) calling for a special conference, to make arrangements for the formation of local councils, was approved.

The Executive wish to express their thanks to societies who have entertained the conferences and to various speakers for the valuable services rendered.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office.....	21	1 10	By Conferences	10	8 10
			„ Executive Meetings	10	4 6
			„ Postages, &c.....	0	8 6
	£21	1 10		£21	1 10

JAS. DAVISON, Secretary.

No. 7.—SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. Liddle, J.P. (chairman), West Hartlepool.	Mr. J. Cotterill, J.P., Guisborough.
„ R. Turnbull (secretary), Loftus.	„ W. R. Tennet, West Hartlepool.
„ T. W. Brown, Darlington.	„ T. Scarth, Stockton.
	„ D. Lang, Middlesbrough.

Mr. G. Bedford, Middlesbrough, Sectional Representative.

In spite of the adverse conditions created by the war, this district is making satisfactory progress in membership and trade, and its educational activities have been well maintained.

During the year four conferences have been held, at which the attendance was quite up to the average, notwithstanding that curtailed railway facilities and increased fares to some extent militated against the representation of outlying societies.

The first conference was held, under the auspices of the Stockton Society, on 17th February, 1917, when the sectional secretary read his paper, "First Things First," in which he contended that the co-operative idea in its practical form was revolutionary in its purpose, and did not seek to make the best of the present order, but to fundamentally change it. This object the exponents of the idea sought to gain by voluntary association. The lack of cohesion in the movement was dealt with, and a grouping of societies and readjustment of distributive areas recommended.

The second conference was held, on the invitation of Skelton Society, at Saltburn-by-the-Sea, when Mr. T. Liddle, J.P. (West Hartlepool) (president of the district), in a brief and instructive address, dealt with "The Difficulties Now Facing Societies in Relation to Foodstuffs," and as the outcome of discussion a resolution was unanimously approved asking Parliament to demand the resignation of the Food Controller, who by giving way to the demands of profiteers had utterly failed to safeguard the interests of the people. At this conference the annual statistical report was submitted by the secretary (Mr. R. Turnbull).

The third conference was held at Northallerton on 11th August, at which Mr. G. A. McEwan (of Stockton) dealt in a characteristically able and lucid manner with "The Present Relation of Co-operative Societies to the Excess Profits War Tax." He complimented the Plymouth Society on the fight they had put up against the tax, which had led to the Act being amended and the whole movement benefited. Both in the discussion and reply the tax was vigorously denounced.

The fourth conference was held at Darlington on 3rd November, on the invitation of the local society, when the subject for consideration was "Co-operative Representation in Parliament and on Local Bodies, and the Best Means of Bringing this About," introduced by Mr. Thomas Beckett (of West Hartlepool) in a most eloquent and lucid address, which was styled by the chairman (Mr. Liddle) as one of the most valuable contributions ever brought before these conferences. It evoked a useful and interesting discussion. The whole of the societies in the district have since been circularised by the Executive Committee on the question. Resolutions on points in the "Representation of the People Bill" and the "Education Bill" now before Parliament were passed and ordered to be forwarded to Government officials and local members of Parliament, receipt of which was duly acknowledged by them.

At these conferences the average attendance was 105. The subjects

considered, being those which now specially affect the movement, roused lively, frank, and enlightening discussions, and the delegates, and through them the societies, must have benefited thereby.

The Women's Guilds have been active during the year and taken a considerable interest in our conferences, as shown both by their large attendance and the important part they have taken in the discussions.

Our gratitude is due to those societies which have entertained the conferences and provided accommodation for the Executive meetings. The hospitality given and the cordiality displayed were highly appreciated by all who attended the meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			£	s.	d.	Expenditure.			£	s.	d.
To Cash received from	Sectional					By Conferences			16	7	1
Office			28	1	4	„ Executive Meetings			10	12	5
						„ Postage, &c.			1	1	10
			£28	1	4				£28	1	4

R. TURNBULL, Secretary.

NORTHERN SECTION EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

We have pleasure in submitting for your consideration and approval the annual report and balance sheet for the year 1917.

In many directions the scope of our activities has been interfered with by the war. Especially has this been so in regard to class work. In the case of adults, owing to the numbers called up for military service and the overtime necessary to be worked by those at home, it has been found impossible to organise many classes. The junior classes, too, have been fewer in number, due chiefly to the lighting restrictions, which make it undesirable for children to be out after dark.

Conferences.—During the year four conferences have been held. The first at Jarrow, when Mr. J. N. Bell (general secretary of the Labourers' Union) addressed the delegates on "Reconstruction after the War from the Trade Union point of view." The second took place at Shotley Bridge, under the auspices of the Consett Society, when Mr. W. R. Rae spoke on "The Educational Programme of the Union." The third was held at Whitley Bay, Mr. A. Stoddart giving an address on "The Constitution of a Local Education Committee, and that of an Executive of an Education Committees' Association." This was followed by one from Miss E. M. Bradley, M.A., on "The Literary Portion of the Survey Report." The fourth one was held at South Shields, at which Mr. Clayton dealt with "The Periodicals and Text Books of the Co-operative Movement."

In conjunction with the Central Education Committee and the Sectional Board, a series of three conferences were arranged, at which Mr. Fisher's Education Bill was discussed.

Each conference was well attended, and the discussions which took place helpful to those responsible for carrying on the educational work of the societies of the section.

Week-end School.—A week-end school was organised at Whitley Bay towards the end of September. The proceedings began with a reception on the Friday night. On Saturday there were two lectures by Mr. Dogherty, of Newcastle, on (a) "What Education Should Be" and (b) "National Education for Adolescent Adults (Non-vocational)." Miss Bradley also delivered two lectures, the subjects of which were (a) "The Co-operative Atmosphere in Education" and (b) "Educational Programme of the Co-operative Union."

There was an average attendance at each lecture of about 60. The whole of the students were delighted with the school, and expressed the hope that others would be held during the following year.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Income.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance forward	107	19 4	By Subscriptions	9	2 6
„ Subscriptions	56	12 3	„ Conference Expenses	12	2 3
			„ Committee's Fees and Fares	8	2 11
			„ Miscellaneous Expenses	18	14 5
			„ Balance in Bank	116	9 6
	<hr/> £164 11 7			<hr/> £164 11 7	

W. CLAYTON, Secretary.

(4) NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Ten meetings of the Sectional Board have been held during the year, at which the attendance has been as follows:—

	Present.	Sick.	On Deputation.
W. R. Blair	10	—	—
E. Booth	10	—	—
J. R. Cunliffe	10	—	—
W. Dewhurst	9	—	1
S. Fairbrother	10	—	—
S. R. Foster	10	—	—
G. Goodenough	9	—	1
J. Greenwood	10	—	—
W. Gregory	10	—	—
F. Hayward	9	—	1
A. Horricks	10	—	—
F. Houghton	10	—	—
J. Johnston	10	—	—
G. Major.....	9	1	—
J. Morrell	5	5	—
T. Redfearn	9	1	—
W. Swindlehurst.....	8	—	2
J. Thompson	10	—	—
T. Way	9	—	—
B. Woolfenden	10	—	—

	Present.	Sick.	Absent.
Hon. Members:—			
C. J. Beckett.....	—	—	10
H. Stuttard	1	—	9

At the first meeting held after Congress the following appointments were made, viz. :—

Chairman: Mr. G. Goodenough.

Vice-chairman: Mr. W. Dewhurst.

United Board: Messrs. G. Goodenough, F. Hayward, G. Major, and J. Morrell.

Office Committee: Messrs. G. Goodenough and F. Hayward.

Education Committee: Messrs. E. Booth and S. Fairbrother.

Joint Propaganda Committee: Messrs. W. Gregory and T. Way.

North-Western Educational Committees' Association : Mr. B. Woolfenden.

Sectional Propaganda Committee : Messrs. W. R. Blair, W. Dewhurst, S. R. Foster, A. Horricks, F. Houghton, J. Johnston, and J. Thompson.

Choral Association : Messrs. W. R. Blair, J. R. Cunliffe, W. Dewhurst, S. Fairbrother, and W. Gregory.

In submitting the Annual Report for your consideration and adoption we have again to express our regret at not being able to give the usual statistical information. At the time of writing we are not even in a position to foretell what developments have been made, either in membership or trade, but from a casual glance at the few returns which have already come to hand we think, notwithstanding the exceptional circumstances created by the war, that the statistics will reveal, when published, substantial increases.

* During the year the Sectional Board has held ten meetings, and many matters of importance affecting the movement have been dealt with. In view of the decision of the Swansea Congress and the Emergency Conference, special attention has been given to the question of Direct Co-operative Representation in Parliament. The majority of the district associations, if not all, have also discussed this important question, and resolutions supporting the Political Policy have in several cases been carried with unanimity. In addition to Parliamentary Representation the National Co-operative Policy and Programme, endorsed by the delegates attending the Swansea Congress, has been dealt with during the year. The policy contains many important features, and we suggest that societies should convene meetings of members in order to secure their interest and active support. Educational committees would do well to make a special feature of the National Policy by including same in their syllabus, as every available avenue should be sought in which to propagate the principles laid down in the National Policy.

DIRECT CO-OPERATIVE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

Direct Co-operative Parliamentary Representation having been sanctioned by Congress, and confirmed by the Emergency Conference held in London in October last, societies should take immediate steps to organise their forces for political action. A list of co-operative societies in each Parliamentary Division should be compiled as soon as possible, and the committees of societies should arrange meetings with the view to forming a Parliamentary Council on the basis laid down in the scheme recently adopted by the movement. In constituencies where one Co-operative society only carries on operations the composition of the local Parliamentary Council should be such as will enlist the sympathy and support of an able and efficient band of workers. There is no time like the present to prepare our plans so that the movement may be ready to take its part in the forthcoming General Election which, we are told, will take place this year. Specimen

copies of rules for the guidance of district Parliamentary committees may be obtained on application to the Sectional Secretary.

On 8th December the Board held a joint meeting with representatives from the various conference associations to discuss the scheme of Parliamentary Representation, which was introduced by the Sectional Secretary.

In the event of the failure in any area of any society or societies to take the preliminary steps, it is suggested that district conference associations should take the initiative.

It is desirable when committees are asking the members for grants to carry on political propaganda, to ask for one inclusive contribution to cover both national and local purposes. For national purposes £2 per 1,000 members is recommended, and this amount should be forwarded to the Central Office.

CONFERENCES.

Owing to the exigencies of the war the Board has not convened as many sectional conferences as usual. The first was held at Bradford on Saturday, 22nd September, 1917, when the National Policy and Programme was introduced by Professor F. Hall, M.A. (Adviser of Studies). A long discussion ensued and the following resolution was passed unanimously :—

That this conference of representatives from societies in the North-Western Section welcomes the National Co-operative Policy prepared by the Central Board of the Co-operative Union Limited (and endorsed by the Swansea Congress), and recommends each society in the section to bring the details of such policy prominently before its members. With the view to further development of co-operative activity after the war, it specially recommends societies to take, as early as possible, the necessary steps to remove all restrictions on the accumulation of share and loan interest, and to consider the various points suggested in the policy with the view to adopting them.

Under the joint auspices of the Central Education Committee, Educational Committees' Association, and the Sectional Board two special conferences have been held, one at Bolton on Saturday, 27th October, for the Lancashire societies, and the other at Huddersfield on 24th November, for the Yorkshire societies. The subject for consideration was Mr. Fisher's Education Bill, and a strong feeling of resentment at any shelving of the Bill was expressed, as will be observed by the following resolution which was passed, viz. :—

That, in the interests of the children, we, representing co-operative societies in Lancashire and Yorkshire, protest against any shelving of the Educational Bill, and demand that it shall be passed into law this session.

Further, that on its restoration it shall be strengthened on the following points :—(a) Lessening of size of classes in the elementary schools ; (b) that the medical service should have

compulsory powers ; (c) vocational training shall not be begun before eighteen years of age.

Copies of the resolution were sent to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, and local Members of Parliament

With the view to securing a closer unity between the trade union and co-operative movements a joint conference was convened by the Executive of the Manchester District Conference Association and the Committee of the Deience Association, which took place in the Mitchell Memorial Hall, Balloon Street, Manchester, on Saturday, 27th October. All trade unions, trades and labour councils, and co-operative societies within a radius of twelve miles of the city were invited to be represented. The conference was well attended, and the addresses given by Messrs. R. Smillie (President of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain), and H. J. May (Secretary of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Congress), who were the chief speakers, were appreciated by all present. A lengthy and animated discussion took place, and the following resolution was passed without a single dissident :-

That this Joint Conference of Trade-unionists and Co-operators welcomes the decision of both the Trades Union and Co-operative Congresses to establish a close working alliance to secure the common aims of co-operation and trade-unionism in respect to hours of labour, wages, housing, educational opportunities (both technical and general), and the promotion of such measures as will secure the economic emancipation of the worker. It therefore calls upon the two movements to make every effort to obtain better representation of the industrial classes in Parliament and on local governing bodies, and suggests that the executive authorities of both movements should immediately take such action as may be necessary to enable the two movements to attain these objects.

To make the resolution effective we earnestly hope that all trade-unionists will support the efforts now being made to bring more closely together all progressive forces whose objects are in accordance with the political policy adopted by the co-operative movement.

The annual conference for the consideration of sectional and district reports was held at Leeds, on Saturday, 20th April, under the auspices of the Leeds Society.

Our thanks are due to the societies which have kindly entertained the conferences during the year, and we desire to place on record our appreciation of the hospitality extended to the delegates on each occasion.

SECRETARIES' CONFERENCES.

In consequence of the depletion of staffs and the difficulties under which officials of societies have to carry on their duties, the usual conferences held for the benefit of secretaries have not been held. We hope, however, that the time is not far distant when such gatherings can again take place.

SECTIONAL DEMONSTRATION.

Although no sectional demonstration and choir contest has been held since the outbreak of hostilities, we are glad to report that the membership of the Choral Association has been well maintained, a fact which is highly appreciated by the committee. It is unfortunate that the operations of the Choral Association have had to be suspended, but we are looking forward to the time when the committee can renew its activities with increased vigour and enthusiasm. The total amount now standing to the credit of the Demonstration Fund is £392. 15s. 11d.

BOUNDARIES.

Particulars of the following cases (a) and (b), which have now been satisfactorily settled, were given in our previous report, viz. :—

(a) Doncaster, Goole, Gainsborough, Great Grimsby, and Scunthorpe societies.

(b) Bolton and Eagley.

(c) Owing to the continued friction and ill-feeling caused by the amalgamation of Salterforth Society with Colne, it was thought advisable to reopen negotiations. In response to a communication received from the federation of small societies in North-East Lancashire another sub-committee was appointed, including representatives from the North-East Lancashire District Executive to meet a deputation from such federation. The meeting took place in the Boardroom of the Blackburn Industrial Society, on Saturday, 12th January, when it was unanimously agreed that the whole of the case should be reinvestigated. Negotiations are still proceeding.

AMALGAMATION OR FEDERATION.

The question of amalgamation has again been kept to the front and several cases have been dealt with.

(a) Prestwich and Whitefield and Unsworth societies. Several joint meetings of the committees of these societies have been held, and conditions of amalgamation drawn up. The sub-committee appointed by the Sectional Board rendered every assistance in drawing up these conditions, including the necessary resolution for submission to the members of each society. Special general meetings in each case were duly held, but owing to the failure of Whitefield and Unsworth Society to secure the necessary three-fourths majority the negotiations came to an unsatisfactory termination. The requisite majority was obtained at the Prestwich meeting, but in view of the result of the Whitefield meeting no further steps were taken.

(b) Stacksteads and Tunstead societies. Success attended our efforts here, and we are pleased to say that the reorganisation which

has taken place through the amalgamation is giving every satisfaction in the district.

(c) Brooksbottoms, and Summerseat and Brooksbottoms. Our efforts in this district did not meet with success. Joint meetings of the two committees were convened, and conditions of amalgamation drawn up, but on the special general meetings of members being held, the resolution to amalgamate was lost at each place.

We must realise that the co-operative movement is in for a great fight, and that forces are being massed against us, and it is useless, or worse than useless to sit down and merely try to retain our present position. If societies are to successfully withstand the attacks of the large company firms, it is essential, especially where there are a number of small societies, to consolidate by amalgamating their forces, and forming one large and well organised society. Although we have not been very successful during the past year in bringing about many cases of amalgamation, we intend to continue our efforts.

The attempt made to form in the City of Manchester a Federation of Co-operative Societies for the purpose of establishing a Co-operative Emporium on lines similar to the large company shops has, owing to the exigencies of the war, been abandoned. When the time is more opportune, however, we hope to renew our activities in this direction. With such a development there arises the possibility of provision being made for a Co-operative Café, so much needed in Manchester, and the opening out of some facilities for co-operators from the surrounding districts to meet together on their visits to the city.

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

(a) *Seaside Home, Blackpool*.—The attendance at this home during the past year has been as follows, viz. :—

	1916.		1917,		Dec.
Recommends received	1,432	..	1,349	..	82
Extra weeks	313	..	275	..	38

These figures are not satisfactory, but no doubt the increase in railway fares is mainly responsible for the position of affairs.

The average cost of food per head, including the staff, has been 9s. 1.5d., as against 7s. 7.25 for 1916, whilst the maintenance charges have averaged 9s. 8.3d. per head, as against 8s. 1.5d. for the corresponding period, thus making a total expense per head of 18s. 9.8d. There has consequently been a loss on the working of the home of £444. 5s. 2d. Having in mind the increased price for recommends for the present year, and the necessity of rationing those who go to the home, it is expected that the position will be improved during 1918.

The alterations to the heating apparatus, which consist of a new heating chamber and boiler, are now complete, and are giving satisfaction. The

cost of these alterations is £628. 4s. 1d., which is included in the accounts. This constitutes an additional burden on capital expenses.

(b) *Inland Home, Otley*.—This home was reopened to convalescents in April last, and the attendance has been as follows, viz. :—

Recommends received	188
Extra weeks	130
Amount received from Visitors	£115 16s. 6d.

The average cost of food per head (inclusive of staff) has been 8s. 8·9d., whilst the maintenance charges work out at 16s. 8·7d., or a total cost of 25s. 5·4d. The loss on the working of the home is £378. 0s. 5d. This is very serious, and would indicate that unless there is a much better attendance during the coming year the committee may have to seriously consider the position.

The financial position of the association is, unfortunately, far from satisfactory. Surely, if the members of the societies affiliated with the association knew this they would be willing to render assistance. We therefore trust that committees will bring the claims of the association before their members.

JUBILEE CONGRESS.

The invitation of the Manchester societies to receive and entertain the Jubilee Congress having been accepted by the Swansea Congress, a Reception Committee, consisting of representatives of societies in the city and surrounding districts, was formed, and several meetings were held. At the meeting held on Saturday, 26th January, owing to the uncertainty of being able to provide luncheons and the necessary accommodation for the delegates, the following resolution was passed :—

That, owing to the difficulties of catering for the delegates we ask the United Board to postpone Congress until next year.

Notwithstanding this resolution, however, the United Board has decided that the Congress must be held. In consequence of this decision a further meeting of the Reception Committee was held on 16th February, but, after a full and free discussion, the resolution passed at their previous meeting was reaffirmed by 41 votes to 31.

To help us out of the difficulty the Liverpool Society kindly came forward with an invitation to hold Congress at Liverpool, which was unanimously accepted by the United Board. The Birkenhead Society afterwards decided to join their Liverpool friends in entertaining the Congress, and steps were taken to form a new Reception Committee to make the necessary arrangements. The Central Hall, Liverpool, has been engaged for the Congress sittings, and provision has also been made for the delegates to have luncheon on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday as usual.

ORGANISATION OF ALLOTMENT HOLDERS.

The Board believe that useful and effective propaganda work could be carried on amongst the allotment holders, who are numerous in every town

and village. It is therefore, suggested that societies should call meetings of allotment holders and explain how it is possible for them to purchase co-operatively seeds, tools, manures, &c., and provide for a systematic marketing of surplus products. Societies would do well to take this matter up immediately, as the allotment movement has undoubtedly come to stay.

GENERAL.

Despite the war and the difficulties in securing supplies, three new societies have been formed in North Wales at Portmadoc, Penrhyn Deudraeth, and Llandegfan, and we hope they will have a successful career.

Hours and Wages Boards have now been set up in almost every district and very effective work has been accomplished. With the view to uniformity the Sectional Board met representatives from each Wages Board on Saturday, 13th October, when the following resolutions were passed :—

- (1) That craft workers employed by societies, whether organised in the A.U.C.E. or their craft organisations, be paid not less than the rates of wages and bonus laid down as the minimum by the craft union for the district.
- (2) That females should be paid not less than the Congress Female Scheme with a suitable war bonus to meet the present increased cost of living. The question as to their position and status after the war to be left in abeyance, to be determined according to the conditions then existing.
- (3) That the methods of procedure, as printed in the Annual Sectional Report submitted to the Swansea Congress, be adopted.
- (4) That the question of the advisability or otherwise of forming a Federation of Wages Board be referred back to the Sectional Board for further consideration, with a recommendation that such federation consist of one representative from each wages board in the section, together with representation from the Sectional Board.

In accordance with the terms of resolution (4) the Sectional Board has reconsidered the question of a federation, and recommend that in view of the appointment of a Labour Adviser there is no necessity for such a federation to be formed. It is therefore suggested that in lieu of a federation it be an instruction that should circumstances arise affecting the whole of the wages boards that a conference of representatives from each Board be immediately held, and that the sub-committee, appointed by the Sectional Board, be empowered to call a meeting when necessary.

The Sectional Board, at its meeting on 8th December last, passed the following resolution, viz. :—

That this Board expresses itself in favour of the Survey Committee considering the advisability, or otherwise, of the appointment of a permanent executive for the Co-operative Union.

In view of the importance of this question we invite a full and frank discussion.

The following societies have joined the Union during the present year, viz. :—Lepton Town Bottom, Rochdale Provident, Smallbridge Conservative, and Tideswell. The total amount of the subscriptions received for 1917 is £7,540. 9s. 10d., an increase of £503. 17s. 9d over the previous year.

OBITUARY.

During the year the following well-known co-operators, viz. :—Messrs. J. Dickinson (Dalton), and J. Nuttall (late manager of Eccles Society) have passed from our ranks, and we desire to place on record our appreciation of the services which they have rendered to the movement. "A good life is often too short, but a good name endureth for ever."

G. GOODENOUGH, Chairman.

J. BRADSHAW, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No 1.—AIREDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. C. Gration (chairman), Leeds.
 „ M. Hopwood (secretary), Bradford.
 „ J. Brooke, Keighley.
 „ A. Firth, City of Bradford.

Mr. E. Hyde, Windhill.
 „ J. Noble, Great Horton.
 „ H. Whalley, Denholme.

Representative on the Sectional Board : Mr. S. R. Foster, Bingley.

In presenting our report for 1917 we beg to say, as being part of the largest body in the country organised for food distribution, that our movement has been studiously ignored hitherto by the powers that be. Certainly the limited shortage of 1916 developed into a general shortage during the past year and made the task of distribution a very arduous one, still there is much that co-operators can complain about.

We feel that our societies have done their best under very trying conditions, and deserve much credit ; but we still regret that the prospect is studded with difficulties and will need considerable tact and patience to surmount.

We look to the promised National Rationing Scheme, when put into operation, to at least mitigate many of the faults of the patchwork methods at distribution hitherto tried, at least we hope so.

As usual we have held four conferences during the year. The first one was held at Great Horton, when Mr. Hodgson (manager of the local society) read Mr. W. W. Whittle's paper on "Dividend."

The second, which was the annual meeting, was held at Bingley, when Mr. N. H. Cooper (Manchester) read Alderman F. Hayward's paper on "Co-operators and Income Tax."

The third conference was held at Guiseley, when Mr. Whalley (Executive) read the Union's paper on "A National Co-operative Policy and a National Co-operative Programme for the Congress Year 1917-18."

The fourth conference was held at Queensbury, when Mr. Ellis Jagger read Mr. D. McInnes' paper, "Farming and Distributive Societies."

The conferences have been well attended and the discussion was invariably of a practical character.

The executive has held seven meetings during the year. The scheme for Co-operative Representation in Parliament and on public bodies has claimed a large part of attention during the latter part of the past year, and we are pleased to say that much progress has been made at least in an initial way towards that end.

Co-operative farming is also engaging the attention of the executive, and we feel that the time has come when the societies could with advantage

look to their own resources for a greater measure of their food supplies. In suitable areas, through the formation of a federation of distributive societies for the production and distribution of agricultural products, large possibilities await the movement if intelligently handled.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand 1st Jan., 1917.....	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	4	4	3
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	14	7	8	„ Conferences and other Meetings.	4	18	11
				„ Joint Meeting	1	11	6
				„ General Printing.....	0	5	0
				„ Postages	0	16	0
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	12	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917....	6	0	0
	£20	7	8		£20	7	8

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1917.....	6	13	5	By Mr. Holden's Funeral	0	8	5
„ Bradford Men's Guild	0	2	6	„ Delegation (A. Firth).....	0	5	6
„ Women's Guild Expenses—				„ Swansea Congress (A. Firth)	3	0	0
Airedale	0	2	6				
Leeds	3	3	0				
Keighley	1	10	0	„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917....	8	17	6
Windhill	1	0	0		£12	11	5
	£12	11	5				

HOURS AND WAGES BOARD.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash from—				By Executive Meetings	1	7	6
Bradford	1	0	0	„ Conciliation Board Meeting ...	0	2	6
Keighley.....	1	0	0	„ Deputations	0	15	0
Windhill	1	0	0	„ Fees and Fares	0	16	1
Great Horton	0	10	0	„ Joint Meeting, Manchester	0	7	6
Birkenshaw	0	10	0	„ Fees and Fares ..	2	0	0
Rawdon	0	10	0	„ General Printing	2	2	0
Queensbury	0	10	0	„ Postages	1	5	4
Haworth	0	10	0	„ Teas	0	6	3
Thornton	0	10	0				
Bingley	0	10	0				
Skipton	0	10	0				
Harrogate	0	10	0				
Wilsden	0	5	0				
Clayton	0	5	0				
Buttershaw	0	5	0				
Denholme	0	4	0				
„ Cash due, 1917	0	13	2				
	£9	2	2		£9	2	2

M. HOPWOOD, Secretary.

NO. 2.—BOLTON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Thomas Barlow (chairman), Farnworth.	Mr. A. G. Richardson, Radcliffe.
„ Jas. Monks (secretary), 96, Pennington Road, Great Lever, Bolton.	„ John T. Neajh, Walkden.
Mrs. S. Smith, Bolton.	„ Thos. H. Orrell, Horwich.
	„ Ernest Wallwork, Westhoughton.
	„ Henry Jackson, Wigan.

Educational Committees' Representative : Mr. John Seed, Bolton.

Sectional Representative : Mr. S. Fairbrother, Bolton.

It is again our duty to present to you the report of our past year's work. This has been continued under great difficulties, and societies have been much harassed by the scarcity of supplies. Your executive have been alive to the situation, and have pressed the Food Controller, also Members of Parliament, to consider the just claims of co-operation, though we are afraid these efforts have not met with the success they deserved. Our thanks are due to our co-operative friends who are so nobly upholding the best traditions of the movement by their self-sacrifice in the various fields of the war. With those who have lost their husbands and sons, our sympathy goes out to them. With those who are left at home to "carry on" we would, with all the force of our power, urge them to do their duty nobly in the cause of co-operation. We want, at a time like this, especially to show our loyalty to the movement, which has done so much for the working classes of this country. Now is the time for action, and it depends on what we as individuals are prepared to do by concerted action whether co-operation will come out triumphantly in the great crisis through which we are passing. Your executive have therefore wisely placed the question of Education in the forefront during the past year. The conferences have been marked by a zeal surpassing former years, and we cannot think that our gatherings have been in vain. The enthusiasm shown at our meetings must have been carried back to the societies and stimulated committee-men to still greater efforts in the cause. We go forward with hopes for the future, and trust that when the arms of war are laid down we shall see that our armour is in good order and quite ready to be used in times of peace for the advancement and true liberties of the people. We cannot afford to slacken our efforts one bit, for the powers that are being used against us are strong, and it will require the combined efforts of every one worthy the name of co-operator to break down the mighty forces ranged against us. We can do it if co-operators to themselves will still be true.

We have held four conferences and five executive meetings during the year, whilst the Wages and Hours Board have held several meetings.

The first conference was held at Wigan, when Professor Hall read his paper entitled "The Economic Results of the War and their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement."

The second conference was held at Radcliffe, when Mr. S. Fairbrother read a paper on "Should Co-operators seek Direct Representation in Parliament?"

The third conference took place at Hindley. Miss E. M. Bradley, M.A., introduced the question of Mr. Fisher's "New Educational Programme."

The fourth conference was held at Farnworth, when Mr. H. Jackson introduced the question of "A National Co-operative Policy."

We would again urge all to take an intelligent interest in the work of the association. The executive will consider it a favour to receive from societies suggestions that will enable them to be of greater usefulness to societies in the District.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	7	2	11
" Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	16	10	1	" Conferences and other Meetings ..	7	7	8
				" Joint Meeting	1	19	6
				" Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917....	6	0	0
	£23	10	1		£22	10	1

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917 ..	12	9	0	By attendance at—			
" Subscriptions from Societies	11	10	0	Conferences	2	17	9
				Congress	6	0	0
				Wages and Hours Board ..	1	9	8
				" Postages.....	0	19	6
				" Honorarium, Secretary W. & H. Board	1	0	0
				" Secretary's Salary	2	0	0
				" Balance in Secretary's hands, 31st Dec., 1917	9	12	1
	£23	19	0		£23	19	0

Audited—

W. BENTLEY

JAMES MONKS, Secretary.

No. 3.—CALDERDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Pickles (chairman), Cornholme.	Mr. J. Thorp, Halifax.
" A. Binns (secretary), 20, Dean Lane, Sowerby, Sowerby Bridge.	" Charles Wood, Rastrick.
" T. Ellison, Hebden Bridge.	" Wm. Swain, Todmorden.
	Mrs. M. Johnson, Sowerby Bridge.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. Jos. Greenwood, Hebden Bridge.

The year with all the doubtful forebodings has come and gone, and in spite of the many difficulties, inside and outside the shops, we may congratulate ourselves that matters are no worse. Inconvenience, diminished supplies, are now the order of the day, which must reflect itself when next the returns are made. Pressing questions are affecting co-operators at the moment, the salvation of which must come from ourselves and in a practical manner.

On Saturday, 17th February, 1917, under the auspices of the Halifax Industrial Society, Mr. May's paper entitled "Income Tax and Excess Profits Duty" was under discussion, and was handled in a most praiseworthy manner by the delegates present.

For the annual conference at Sowerby Bridge we had a representative from the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank to explain the principles of banking and its relation to societies. Numerous questions were asked; in fact societies which had doubts about their banking (always important,) went back to their societies thoroughly well satisfied.

From here, Bridge End, Todmorden, fills the gap on 17th November, to discuss "The Entry of Co-operators into Political Life," the subject being handled by Mr. Swain, the society's president. Quite an historical *résumé* was given of "The March of Democracy," with the result that a real breezy discussion took place,

In conclusion, the outlook for the co-operative movement is to part with the old shibboleth and concentrate upon one factor, viz., "That co-operation must be interwoven into all the ramifications of life."

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	4	4	6
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	13	2	6	„ Conferences and other Meetings.	5	18	7
				„ Joint Meeting	0	11	9
				„ Postages	0	7	8
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand 31st Dec., 1917....	6	0	0
	£19	2	6		£19	2	6

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	4	11	8	By Conference (Bridge End).....	1	10	0
„ Interest	0	2	11	„ Balance in hand, 31st Dec., 1917..	3	4	7
	£4	14	7		£4	14	7

A. BINNS, Secretary.

NO. 4.—CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Cheetham (chairman) St. Helens.	Mr. C. W. Fawcett, Ruabon.
Councillor Wright (secretary), 56, Duke Street, Southport.	„ J. Jarman, Warrington.
Mr. H. J. Beeston, Liverpool.	„ W. Read, New Brighton.
	„ W. Williams, Chester.

Representative from the Co-operative Union : Mr. W. R. Blair, Liverpool.

With very few exceptions all the societies in the district are prospering. There are a few village societies, however, not so fortunate and they are giving the executive much anxiety. As a rule, although the villages are small and in close proximity to each other yet they are self-contained,

separate and distinct. This being so, societies were formed there, but time has proved that the working expenses of each society are too heavy to be borne, and the executive are carefully considering the advisability of advocating the amalgamation of several societies to form one large society, but, as a preliminary it may be found prudent to proceed with the amalgamation by groups. Some districts are, of course, more isolated than others, and in three such cases, Port Madoc, Penrhyn-Deudraeth, and Llandegfan, near Menai Bridge, a society has been formed in each of them, two of which are progressing very well indeed, but in the case of Port Madoc, although over £200 capital has been subscribed, and is deposited in the bank, nothing much further can be done at present owing to an unfortunate delay which occurred when the registration scheme was being put into operation.

CONFERENCES.

These have been very well attended, not only by delegates from the societies, but by the guilds and educational committees, and the conference papers have been re-read and discussed at many of their subsequent meetings. Although there is no doubt that much good is derived from the conferences, yet it is a debatable point whether they should be continued as at present constituted owing to the restricted railway service, and the stringent rationing regulations. The delegates left the matter in the hands of the executive, who have decided to hold the May conference despite the difficulties.

The first conference was held in Garston on 19th May, 1917, when the joint paper by Mr. Thompson (Sectional Board) and Mr. Bradshaw (Sectional Secretary) was read on "Is it desirable or expedient for Co-operators to be Directly Represented in Parliament?" Upon a vote being taken there was an overwhelming majority against direct representation.

At the annual meeting held on 25th August, 1917, at Penmaenmawr, for the special convenience of delegates from societies in isolated districts of North Wales, the district secretary read a paper, under the title of "Our Annual Stocktaking," in which he pointed out what seemed to him matters requiring the immediate attention of co-operators generally, but more especially of the committees and members of the societies in that association.

The ballot resulted in the re-election of the executive, and the unopposed return of the district secretary for the thirtieth time.

The third conference, held in Liverpool on 24th November, 1917, considered a paper prepared by Mr. Blair (sectional representative) on "The Survey Committee's Report on the Constitution of the Co-operative Union and the Co-operative Press." A resolution was also adopted asking the Ministry of Food "to withdraw the new proposals *re* regulation of sugar supplies by means of individual coupons as being unnecessary and unworkable.

"Direct Representation" was discussed at the fourth conference convened at Warrington on 23rd February, 1918, arising out of a paper read by Mr. Sherburn (Warrington) on "Direct Parliamentary Representation of Co-operators: Why? and How?"

A resolution was passed asking the Ministry of Food to immediately put into force a national compulsory system of rationing of essential food-stuffs, for the purpose of securing an equitable distribution thereof amongst all classes of the community."

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

have been regularly held midway between the conferences, and the result of their deliberations given to the subsequent conference. The burning questions of the hour have always received careful consideration and over twenty Members of Parliament written to, or interviewed. Probably the effect of this revealed itself when the "Excess Profits Tax" was debated in the House of Commons, and a change of tone adopted. Councils are being formed in various districts to further the cause of direct representation—local as well as Parliamentary.

HOURS AND WAGES BOARD.

Fourteen meetings have been held during the year, in eight of which deputations, in regard to increases in wages and bonus were received and the disputes adjudicated upon. The object kept in view has been the amelioration of the social condition of the employees, as well as the resisting of all exorbitant demands.

The delegates have greatly appreciated the district secretary's cyclostyled returns prepared for each conference, as by them comparisons in the progress of the societies can readily be seen.

The executive are deeply indebted, and heartily accord their thanks, to the societies which have so generously, and often at very great inconvenience, entertained the conferences, and to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for the continued permission to use their office in Liverpool for the executive meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	10	5 10
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	57	10 8	„ Conferences and other meetings.	25	4 4
			„ Joint Meetings, &c.	1	18 9
			„ Special Propaganda	4	16 9
			„ Deputations	0	17 11
			„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0 0
			„ Stationery and Printing	0	13 8
			„ Postages	1	19 5
			„ Postage, Stationery, Printing, &c., for Hours and Wages Board ..	9	14 5
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917	6	0 0
	£63	10 8		£63	10 8

ROBERT WRIGHT, Secretary.

No. 5.—DEWSBURY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Kershaw (chairman), Batley.	Mr. T. Gill, Wakefield.
„ T. H. Thomson, J.P. (secretary), Dewsbury.	„ George Lucas, Ossett.
„ S. Hall, Cleckheaton.	„ R. B. Liley, Horbury.
	„ E. Stansfield, Morley.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. Thos. Way, Wakefield.

Four conferences have been held during the year, the interest in which has been well maintained, and the attendances have in every case been satisfactory.

Societies in the district are beginning to show the effects of the shortage of provisions by a somewhat serious drop in the sales in the departments affected.

This, the executive are convinced, is only a temporary setback, and will right itself quickly as soon as things become normal.

The February conference was held on the 10th at Ravensthorpe, when Mr. Lander (Co-operative Wholesale Society) read his paper, "The Development of Co-operative Production and the Supply of Raw Materials." The discussion which followed was chiefly directed towards a more forward policy on the part of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Mr. Lander, in reply, pointed out the many difficulties with which they were faced from time to time, and held that great progress had been made during the past few years towards enlarging the field of co-operative production, both by the acquisition of land, the opening up of new works, and the extension of existing plant.

The second conference was held at Horbury on 19th May, when Professor F. Hall read his paper No. 2, "The Development of Co-operation and the Supply of Raw Materials." Here, again, disappointment was expressed at the small amount of progress made and the need for a larger outlook both on the part of the leaders and the rank and file.

On 18th August the conference was held at Wakefield, when Mr. James Thompson (Sectional Board) read the paper prepared by Messrs. Bradshaw and Thompson, entitled "Is it Desirable or Expedient for Co-operators to be Directly Represented in Parliament?" The resolution contained in the paper was, after a lengthy discussion, carried unanimously. The executive, in order to test the feeling of boards of management on the matter of subscriptions to the Parliamentary Fund, called a special conference on 26th September, to which only boards of management were asked to send delegates, eighteen societies representing 63,309 members sent delegates. Five societies representing 4,120 members did not attend. The subject was discussed fully and the following resolution carried:—

That this conference strongly advises societies to so amend their rules, where necessary, as will enable them to subscribe to the proposed Parliamentary and local representation fund.

The conference on 10th November was held at Batley under the auspices of the West Yorks. Coal Federation. Mr. Thos. Gill, the executive delegate to the Emergency Conference in London, gave a report of the proceedings thereat, after which Mr. Geo. Goodenough gave a full account of the interview with Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Rhondda. The reports were discussed and it was decided to adjourn the further consideration of the question of representation until the next conference.

The Members of Parliament representing constituencies touched by our societies' operations have been interviewed during the year on the question of Income Tax and Excess Profits, and the executive are satisfied that the true position of co-operators in relation to both subjects is fully understood by all of them, and, judging by their assurances to the delegates, no unfriendly action is likely to be taken by them.

The various productive works have made satisfactory progress during the year, although in some cases the growing shortage of materials is likely to adversely affect them in the near future. We trust that before another annual report is due that peace will reign and business be resumed under more stable conditions.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917 ..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	9	18	6
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	27	14	3	„ Conferences and other Meetings ..	15	19	8
				„ Propaganda Meeting	0	9	0
				„ Stationery, &c.	0	8	6
				„ Postages	0	6	1
				„ Hours and Wages Board	0	12	6
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917	6	0	0
	£33	14	3		£33	14	3

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1916	8	9	9	By Congress Delegate's Expenses ..	4	0	0
„ Subscriptions from Societies	8	8	0	„ Income Tax Meetings	0	10	0
				„ District Conferences	0	19	10
				„ Emergency Conference — Delegate's Expenses	5	0	0
				„ Postage and Carriage.....	0	12	6
				„ Cash in hand.....	5	15	5
	£16	17	9		£16	17	9

T. H. THOMSON, Secretary.

No. 6.—EAST YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. G. Goodenough (president), Castleford.	Mr. F. Bradley, Selby.
„ Jos. Nicholson (secretary) York.	„ T. Kirby, Market Weighton.
„ B. Webster, Leeds.	„ T. C. Collier, Scarborough.
„ Geo. Wilson, Beverley.	„ W. Mellor, Kippax.
	„ H. Knight, Hull.

Representative from Central Board : Mr. G. Goodenough, Castleford.

No. 7.—HUDDERSFIELD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. Booth (chairman), Wooldale.	Mr. Joseph Bland, Huddersfield.
„ L. Matthews (district secretary), 207, Leeds Road N., Huddersfield.	„ H. Tinkler, Marsden.
„ J. Pogson (statistical secretary), Beaumont Street, Netherton.	„ J. Raisey, Close Hill.
„ F. Ellis (treasurer), 3, College Street, Crosland Moor.	„ W. Buckley, Hillhouse.

Representative on Sectional Board : Mr. E. Booth, Wooldale, near Huddersfield.

Representative on Educational Committees' Association : Mr. J.S. Armitage, J.P.,
7, Lidget Street, Lindley, Huddersfield.

Six conferences and four executive meetings have been held during the year. The attendances at the conferences has been very good. Below is a summary of them.

The first conference was held on Saturday, 28th April, 1917, in the Baptist Schoolroom, Meltham, Mr. G. H. Holroyd in the chair. Mr. James Thompson read the paper prepared by Mr. Bradshaw and himself, "Is it Desirable or Expedient for Co-operators to be Represented in Parliament?" The result of the voting was 62 in favour and one against.

The second conference was held on Saturday, 21st July, 1917, in the Lecture Hall, Princess Street, Huddersfield, Mr. E. Booth in the chair. At this conference a departure was made from the ordinary course, and a survey of the work done during the year formed the subject for discussion. The executive are of opinion that this kind of meeting will serve a useful purpose, acting as a kind of stocktaking of what has been done, and seeing how far we have fallen short of our aims.

The third conference was held on Saturday, 20th October, 1917, in the Lecture Hall, Princess Street, Huddersfield, Mr. E. Booth in the chair. Mr. Ned Baxter, J.P., read a paper specially prepared on the "Amalgamation of Societies in the Colne Valley District."

The fourth conference was held in Princess Street on Saturday, 19th January, 1918. Mr. E. Whiteley (Manchester) introduced the question of "Direct Representation in Parliament." A committee was formed and they have already got to work on the formation of a local council.

Two special conferences have been held during the year. The first was held at Wooldale on the subject of "Educational Propaganda." We are pleased to report that the societies concerned have made a successful start, and we are hoping to see very favourable results.

The second special conference was held at Slaithwaite, when the question of Amalgamation was considered. Up to the time of writing several of the societies have showed a willingness to open negotiations.

The question of Food Prices has occupied the attention of the district and letters of protest have been sent to Lord Rhondda, Mr. Sherwell, Mr. Mallalieu, and Mr. Arnold, the respective M.P.'s for Huddersfield, Colne Valley, and Holmfirth.

We are sorry to have to report the death of Mr. Ned Baxter, J.P., late manager of the Linthwaite Society, and Mr. T. May, president of the Hillhouse Society. The executive committee are grateful for the help received from them during the past year.

Mr. May's seat on the executive committee has been filled by the appointment of Mr. W. Buckley (Hillhouse).

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	4	0 0
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	14	13 5	„ Conferences and other Meetings .	6	12 7
			„ General Printing	1	12 0
			„ Postages	0	6 4
			„ Hire of Rooms	0	2 6
			„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0 0
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917....	6	0 0
	£20	13 5		£20	13 5

L. MATTHEWS, Secretary.

NO. 8.—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE, AND DISTRICT.

Executive Committee.

Mr John Casson (chairman), Stockport.	Mr. S. Hunt, Stoke-on-Trent.
„ J. Compston (secretary), Sunnyside,	„ J. Carding, Leek.
Hardingswood, Kids Grove, Staffs.	„ John Symonds, Silverdale.
„ G. H. Fletcher, Macclesfield.	„ C. Farr, Crewe.

Representative on Sectional Board: Alderman F. Hayward, J.P., Burslem.

The annual report has to be written with the greatest nations of the world still at war, and with the end not yet in sight. In common with other districts the Macclesfield and Crewe District has passed, and is still passing, through times of severe trial as the result of difficulties attendant on the war. The great scarcity of the main commodities of life, and the apparent advantage of the private trader over the co-operative society in the way of provisions, has tested the loyalty of our members almost to the breaking point, and the meetings of management committees have been replete with anxiety. Many bitter lessons have been learned, and one can only hope that as the result of the great struggle through which the co-operative movement is passing we shall rise triumphantly on the crest of the billow, and put in practice at the cessation of hostilities many of the resolves we have made during the hour of trial.

The report has more than a mere touch of sadness, for the year had only just closed when there occurred in the area of the Silverdale and Butt Lane societies a mine disaster in which about 160 miners lost their lives. The families of co-operators involved in this calamity numbered about 80, and the executive committee, in the name of the district, forwarded a resolution of condolence with the bereaved families.

The chief topic for discussion by the executive during the year has been how best to develop the political power of the movement in the district under their charge, and the various societies have carried out the wishes of the Co-operative Union most loyally in interviewing Members of Parliament, and in discussing the question with their members in special meetings, &c.; local councils have been formed in many constituencies, and the executive hope these will be kept in good running order.

During 1917 four conferences were held. In April, at Burslem, Mr. J. J. Carding (executive) introduced Professor Hall's paper, "The Economic Results of the War, and their effect on the Co-operative Movement." An excellent discussion took place on the points raised.

At the annual meeting, held at Congleton, Mr. Geo. Harding, who had held the office of secretary for 25 years, signified his desire to resign, and Mr. J. Compston, the previous year's president, was elected to the position, Mr. C. Farr (Crewe) being appointed to the vacancy on the executive. The remainder of the time was taken up discussing the National Co-operative Policy, and the Taxation question, and both topics were ably introduced by Alderman F. Hayward, who provoked a good discussion.

At the conference held at Winsford in August, Mr. Casson (president of the association) presented the late district secretary with a wallet containing treasury notes, and a silver-mounted umbrella, which had been subscribed for by the societies in the district as a token of appreciation of Mr. Harding's long services. Several delegates expressed the gratitude the district felt to Mr. Harding, who acknowledged the gifts in suitable terms.

The fourth conference took place at Hazel Grove in December, when Mr. J. Compston introduced his paper on "Representation of Co-operators in Parliament, and on Local Governing Bodies, and the best means of achieving this." The paper and discussion served the purpose of driving home many of the lessons which had been taught during the year, and this conference concluded a fairly successful year.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1917 ..		6	0	0	By Executive Meetings		12	14	6
" Cash from North-Western Sectional Board		27	10	1	" Conferences and other Meetings ..		11	13	4
					" Postages		1	2	3
					" Secretary's Honorarium		2	0	0
					" Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917....		6	0	0
		£33	10	1			£33	10	1

J. COMPSTON, District Secretary.

No. 9.—MANCHESTER.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Daniel Pogson (chairman), Burnage.	Councillor Allen Shaw, J.P., Newton, Hyde.
Councillor James Thompson, J.P. (secretary), Ashton.	Councillor Edgar Whiteley, Burnage
Mr. W. H. Kirkland, Pendleton.	Mr. Geo. J. Wilkinson, Marple.

Representative on the Sectional Board : Mr. A. Horricks, Weaste

Representative of the Educational Committees' Association :

Mr. J. F. Ashworth, Urmston.

The Executive have arranged and carried out the following conferences :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Writer and Reader.
1917. April 14	Pendleton	Is it Desirable or Expedient for Co-operators to be Directly Represented in Parliament?	Mr. Councillor Thompson, J.P. (District Secretary).
July 14	Hollingworth	The National Co-operative Policy and Programme (Part I.)	Professor Hall (Director of Studies, Co operative Union).
Oct. 6	Failsforth	Dividends and other matters arising out of Low Profits due to the Control Prices and Food.	Mr. D Pogson (Chairman of the District Association).
Oct. 13	New Moston.....	Organisation for Parliamentary Representation.	Mr. Coun. E. Whiteley (Executive).
Nov. 10	Pendleton	Question of Uniform Dividend of 1s. in the £ on all goods sold.	Introduced by Mr. Young (Eccles).
Nov 30	Swinton (Moorside)	Scheme for Electing a Provisional Committee to put into operation Direct Representation in Parliament and on all Public Bodies.	Mr. Coun. E. Whiteley (Executive).
Dec. 1	Holyoake House, Manchester	Question of issuing checks on all purchases, and paying an all-round Dividend on Everything except Milk.	Introduced by Mr. Edgar (Droylsden).
Dec. 22	Holyoake House, Manchester	Continuation of above	Introduced by Mr. Edgar (Droylsden).
1918. Jan. 12	Whitefield and Unsworth	The National Co-operative Policy and Programme (Part II.)	Mr. W. H. Kirkland (Executive).

As an executive we have had an exceptionally busy year. We commenced the year by discussing Parliamentary Representation, and that question has occupied our attention, along with that of the Defence Committee, more or less throughout the Congress year. At the Pendleton conference the resolutions, afterwards put before the Swansea Congress, were passed. At this conference also Mr. Thompson was reappointed district secretary for the 36th year, and the following societies to form the executive :—Compstall, Droylsden, Eccles, Hyde, and Manchester and Salford. The following were appointed on the Hours and Wages Board :—Mr. Wilkinson (Manchester and District Laundries), Mr. Leatherbarrow (Glossop), Mr. Rankine (Prestwich), Mr. Councillor Shaw, J.P. (Hyde),

No. 10.—NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. S. Blakeborough, J.P. (chairman), Burnley.	Mr. A. Higham, Darwen.
„ John R. Shuttleworth (secretary), Accrington.	„ J. H. Hothersall, Rishton.
„ Joseph Snape, Padiham.	„ W. Slater, Accrington.
„ J. Sharples, Blackburn.	„ Burns A. Bracewell, Accrington.
	„ H. Hartley, Trawden, Colne.

Representative from Sectional Board : Councillor Wm. Dewhurst, Colne

In again presenting the annual report of the above association, we feel assured that the interest in the conferences held has been well maintained. We regret that the great war now raging has taken away from their homes and peaceful occupations so many of our members and employees, and we trust that in the very near future this unhappy state of affairs in our country's history will end, and never be allowed to rise again.

We have had four executive meetings and four conferences.

The first conference was held at Oswaldtwistle on 24th February, 1917, when Mr. Halstead (manager and secretary of Oswaldtwistle Society) read Mr. F. Hall's paper entitled "The Economic Results of the War and their effects upon the Co-operative Movement." A good discussion ensued, to which Mr. Hall suitably replied.

The second conference was held at Whalley on 12th May, 1917, when Mr. J. Bradshaw (secretary of the North-Western Section) introduced the following for consideration, viz., "Is it Desirable or Expedient for Co-operators to be Directly Represented in Parliament?" After a good and instructive discussion, Mr. Bradshaw took up all the points raised and gave satisfaction. The following resolution was put to the conference and carried :—

That, in view of the persistent attacks and misrepresentations made by the opponents of the co-operative movement in Parliament and on local administrative bodies, this conference is of opinion that the time has arrived when co-operators should seek direct representation in Parliament and on all local administrative bodies. It therefore calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union Limited to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the above resolution.

The third conference was held at Padiham on 18th August, 1917, when Mr. S. Fairbrother (a member of the Sectional Board) read his paper entitled "Should Co-operators seek Direct Representation in Parliament?" A good discussion ensued, especially in view of the paper introduced by Mr. Bradshaw at the previous conference. Mr. Fairbrother's reply was good. At the close of the conference the result of the voting for societies to be represented on the executive for the ensuing twelve months was announced

—Padiham, Rishton, Burnley, Accrington and Church, Accrington Provident, Darwen, Trawden and Blackburn Industrial. Mr. J. R. Shuttleworth was appointed secretary.

The fourth conference was held at Darwen, which was addressed by Miss E. M. Bradley, M.A., of the Central Office. The subject dealt with was Mr. Fisher's "New Educational Programme," which was well and ably explained.

The average attendance at conferences held during the year is 142.

We have again been very active with regard to Labour questions and demands made upon societies by the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees.

The district executive acted as the Wages Board up to 22nd December, after which the newly-elected board began its duties.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash from North-Western				By Balance due	11	16	4
Sectional Board	48	7	7	„ Executive Meetings	9	13	4
				„ Conferences and other Meetings	15	18	6
				„ Amalgamation Meetings	1	18	11
				„ Stationery	0	14	0
				„ Postages	0	11	6
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917	6	0	0
	£48	7	7		£48	7	7

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions	95	18	8	By Balance due to late Secretary	25	0	0
„ Interest from Investment	0	6	2	„ Hours and Wages Board and Executive Meetings	41	17	6
				„ Conferences and other Meetings	2	8	6
				„ Sectional Conference	1	6	8
				„ Deputations	1	12	8
				„ Special Sub-committee re Boundaries	2	13	5
				„ Scrutineers	0	7	0
				„ Stationery and Postage	2	11	0
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	5	3	0
				„ „ Expenses	2	13	8
				„ Balance	10	11	5
	£96	4	10		£96	4	10

J. R. SHUTTLEWORTH, Secretary.

No. 11.—NORTH LANCASHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. Richmond (chairman), Fleetwood.	Mr. W. Hoggarth, J.P., Lancaster.
„ J. Parr, J.P. (secretary), Blackpool.	„ Councillor J. Catterall, Preston.
„ T. Kay, J.P., Longridge.	„ J. Foulds, Blackpool.

Representative from Sectional Board: Mr. W. Gregory, J.P., Preston.

Notwithstanding the fact that we are in the fourth year of this devastating war societies in this district continue to make progress in

membership and sales, which would have been substantially increased had full supplies been available. Let us hope that before another report is published a satisfactory world-peace will have been established.

During the year four conferences have been held, at which instructive and educational subjects on questions of co-operative interest have been discussed.

The first conference was held at Preston on 23rd February, when Mr. Jos. Williamson read his paper entitled "The Co-operative Movement and the Workers; a Policy for Future Action," and a very spirited discussion was entered into by the delegates present.

The second conference was held at Lancaster on 19th May, when Mr. J. A. MacGregor read a paper dealing with the question of "The Rising Prices of Commodities and the Action the Movement ought to take with regard thereto," a very helpful policy being outlined and developed in the subsequent debate which was taken part in by the representatives of the various societies.

The annual conference was held at Walmer Bridge on 25th August when a very practical paper by Mr. E. Jackson (Co-operative Wholesale Society) was read on "Co-operation and Agriculture," showing what could be done by the movement in this respect if it only entered upon the work energetically and unitedly.

The fourth conference of the year was held at Kirkham on 17th November, when Mr. Hoggarth, J.P., read Mr. Hall's paper on "The National Policy and National Programme." A very good discussion following the paper.

The Hours and Wages Board has held frequent meetings during the year, and many demands for increased wages have been brought before them for consideration from various societies in the district, and so far these have been satisfactorily and pacifically arranged in the best interests of all. We trust that this reasonable spirit will continue to prevail.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1917	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	9	2 3
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	36	19 7	„ Conferences and other Meetings.	13	18 11
			„ General Printing	1	2 9
			„ Postages	0	15 6
			„ Hours and Wages Board:		
			Meetings	2	16 8
			Printing and Stationery.....	7	3 6
			„ Secretary's Honorarium.....	2	0 0
			„ Cash in hand 31st Dec., 1917.....	6	0 0
	£42	19 7		£42	19 7

J. PARR, Secretary.

No. 12.—NORTH LONSDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Lewney, J.P. (chairman),	Mr. H. W. Hague, Carnforth.
Dalton-in-Furness.	„ J. H. Parr, Kendal.
„ G. Richardson (secretary), Barrow.	„ W. H. Hockaday, Millom.
„ J. Ireland, Ulverston.	„ W. Lyon, J.P., Barrow.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. W. Swindlehurst, Barrow.

In again presenting our report for the year, we beg to say that, considering the abnormal times through which we are passing, presenting unparalleled difficulties, both as to labour, prices, and the shortage of commodities, the co-operative movement has played a good part in steadying prices to the consumer. In this we may reasonably claim that co-operation has served, not only its members, but the community in general well in these troublesome times.

Your executive committee has kept in close touch with the various matters affecting the interests of the district.

Three conferences and four executive meetings have been held, also several meetings of the Hours and Wages Board, and all claims on the part of the employees have been mutually settled.

The first conference was held at Barrow on 27th January. Mr. Swindlehurst (Sectional Board) gave an excellent *résumé* of Mr. May's paper, "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax." The resolution prepared by the Joint Parliamentary Committee was agreed to, and copies forwarded to the local members of Parliament and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The second conference at Carnforth on 18th August. Mr. Pollitt read the Congress paper, "A National Co-operative Programme for the Year 1917-18."

The third conference at Millom on 24th November, when Messrs. Gilbert and Parr dealt with the subject of "A National Programme and the Direct Representation of Co-operators in Parliament and on Public Bodies."

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1917.....	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	8	14	7
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	30	1	4	„ Conferences and other Meetings	14	16	1
				„ Joint Meetings	1	1	10
				„ Hours and Wages Board	2	18	4
				„ Postages	0	10	6
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917	6	0	0
	£36	1	4		£36	1	4

GEORGE RICHARDSON, Secretary.

No. 13.—OLDHAM.

Executive Committee.

Alderman F. Houghton, J.P. (president), Oldham.	Mr. A. E. Dickin, Stalybridge.
Mr. William Hall (district secretary), Ashton-under-Lyne.	Councillor H. Sheard, J.P., Ashton.
„ Edwin Waters, Oldham.	Mr. David Lawton, J.P., Greenfield.
„ Benjamin Whitehead, Shaw.	„ H. Whitehead, Dobcross.
	„ J. T. Gregory, Oldham.

Representative from the Educational Committees' Association:

Mr. J. W. Barbrook, Oldham.

Representative on Sectional Board: Alderman F. Houghton, J.P., Oldham.

During the year we have held four conferences, and the executive four meetings. This is the fourth report since the dreadful war started by which liberty is assailed and the doctrine of "Might" becomes a menace to the civilised world. To co-operators in particular this is a serious object lesson. We sincerely hope for victory with honour and an abiding peace. The attendance at conferences has been most satisfactory and representative; it was manifest that delegates realised their responsibility in these anxious times. The Hours and Wages Board have had a difficult and strenuous year. Business has been conducted under most adverse conditions. The quantity of food allotted to co-operators by the authorities has been considered most inadequate and caused much dissatisfaction. Members now realise that there is a world shortage, but claim a fair share in the national distribution. Prices have been abnormally high and the burden of working expenses and taxation are constantly increasing. Lower dividends have been accepted generally; whilst the stability of societies is maintained, there is urgent need for more capital for future development.

Educational committees are striving to maintain interest in the movement and realise the necessity for reiteration of foundation principles. There is a danger that selfishness, combined with an intense desire for the acquisition of material wealth alone, may hinder rather than promote the object we wish to attain. Many societies distribute the "Wheatsheaf" or a Record. These are useful auxiliaries for circulating information. The editors deserve every encouragement in their efforts to cultivate a taste for reading good literature. Concerts for children and adults and interesting lectures have been appreciated. Debates have been conducted on important topics. Other agencies to create interest in the store are introduced according to local taste or requirement. The Women's Guild has been adequately represented at conferences and a keen interest manifested in the subjects discussed.

The first conference was held in the Oldham Equitable Society's rooms on Saturday, 26th May, 1917. Mr. W. A. Lees (Oldham) read a paper on

"Co-operative Progress: Intensive, Extensive, Defensive." He said: "The increased taxation was the first thing required to arouse the slumbering forces of the movement into decisive action." Declaration of elections of executive was announced and election of secretary took place.

The second conference was held at Greenfield on Saturday, 14th July, 1917. Mr. Hy. Hudson (Greenfield) read a most helpful paper on "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax: A crisis and how to meet it?" He showed that dividends are not profit but deferred or accumulated surplus, consequently not liable for taxation. He pleaded for more education on this matter.

The third conference was held in the Oldham Industrial Society's rooms on Saturday, 27th October, 1917. Alderman F. Hayward (United Board) spoke on "Trading with Non-members and matters connected therewith." He pointed out that difficulties had been forced upon us by the war and asked that societies should view these things from a national standpoint for the welfare of the movement as a whole. Co-operators ought to maintain the legal rights they now possess.

The fourth conference was held for convenience of access in the Oldham Industrial Society's rooms on 9th March, 1918. Mr. F. J. Buckley (president, Oldham Industrial) read Professor Hall's paper on "A National Co-operative Policy." Several of the suggestions contained therein are already adopted in this district, but a general desire was expressed for increased activity in educational effort in all branches.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	4	18 0
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	14	3 11	„ Conferences and other Meetings .	4	7 1
			„ Joint Meetings.....	0	10 9
			„ Propaganda Meetings	0	15 0
			„ Postages	0	12 0
			„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0 0
			„ Hours and Wages Board	1	1 1
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917	6	0 0
	£20	3 11		£20	3 11

WILLIAM HALL, Secretary.

NO. 14.—ROCHDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. Holt (chairman), Rochdale.	Mr. Wm. Holt, Milnrow.
„ A. Johnson (secretary), Heywood.	„ Jas. Hunting, Elton, near Bury.
„ Thos. Rigby, Bury.	„ J. T. Greenwood, Heywood.
„ C. A. Cook, Wardle.	„ J. W. Charnley, Whitworth.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. Benj. Woolfenden, Rochdale.

Representative on Educational Committees' Association:

Mr. J. C. Hill, Bury.

Undoubtedly "Our Year," for, by the accession to the Union of the following societies:—Tottington Industrial, Smallbridge Conservative, and Rochdale Provident, we have realised one of our ambitions, *i.e.*, all societies in our district are now members of the Co-operative Union.

The campaign, inaugurated at the close of 1916, for Uniform District Dividends has been fully justified by satisfactory results achieved.

The Hours and Wages Board have had a very busy time, but by an amicable give-and-take policy with the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees, we have been able to avoid any serious disturbing element in carrying on the trade of societies concerned.

Four conferences have been held, each of exceptional merit.

The first was held at Heywood on Saturday, 10th February, 1917, when Mr. N. H. Cooper read his paper "How Societies can avoid making Excess Profits"; a most timely and helpful paper, full of good points, one of which should be noted—that the Co-operative Wholesale Society dividend was more beneficial to a society than a trader's discount. A case was instanced of a society which had not been assessed with the duty in the first year on account of making this change.

At Woolfold, Saturday, 28th April, 1917, Mr. J. Bradshaw read a paper entitled "Is it desirable or expedient for Co-operators to be Represented in Parliament," and made out so strong a case as to command an unanimous vote in favour.

Mr. Thos. Rigby (executive) read Professor Hall's paper on "A National Co-operative Policy," at Millgate, on Saturday, 28th July, 1917, and handled the subject in a masterly manner.

A most successful innovation was tried at Bury on Saturday, 20th October, 1917, when, in addition to the usual delegates, a special invite, which was readily accepted, was sent out to managers in the district to hear one of their number, Mr. S. Sutcliffe (Rochdale Pioneers) deal with "The problem of Dividends in view of the Controlled Prices of Commodities," and, as was anticipated, a lot of first-hand information was forthcoming, the straight and outspoken talk of some of the managers being enjoyed by the committee-men present to whom their advisory remarks were directed.

Notwithstanding difficulties in relation to the food problem, societies have been most willing to cater for the delegates and their efforts have been greatly appreciated.

The title of subjects discussed indicates at once that we have kept abreast of these exceptional times, and the calibre of the readers is an assurance that expert knowledge was gained on each occasion.

The attendances have been highly satisfactory, and if only looked at from the standpoint of an information bureau, the conferences have been worth while.

The intelligent grasp by attending delegates of the subjects under review bodes well for the future of this district.

The necessity for co-operative representation on local administrative bodies and in Parliament has invariably come to the front, and underlying it all one feels the true ring of a determination that will fight on until justice is meted out to the greatest democratic institution in the world.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	6	5	0
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	20	11	5	„ Conferences and other Meetings..	9	0	8
				„ Hours and Wages Board.....	1	11	6
				„ Stationery	0	14	6
				„ Postages and Telephone	0	19	9
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917	6	0	0
	£26	11	5		£26	11	5

ALF. JOHNSON, Secretary.

No. 15.—ROSSENDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John Longworth (chairman), Ramsbottom.	Mr. H. Riley, Haslingden.
„ J. W. Hargreaves (secretary), Has- lingden.	„ W. L. Whitehead, Waterfoot.
	„ W. H. Canham, Waterfoot.
	„ T. Haworth, Bacup.

Representative on Sectional Board : Mr. J. R. Cunliffe, Ramsbottom.

The past year has been marked by scarcity of supplies, high prices and difficulties all round so far as our co-operative work is concerned. We are not grumbling, however, for the lads in the trenches have undergone far greater difficulties and troubles than we at home have any conception of. The smaller societies in our district seem to have come out the best of all, at any rate so far as supplies of goods are concerned ; but all round there has been much trouble in securing anything like sufficient supply of needful articles. During the year we are glad that amalgamation has been brought to a successful issue in the case of the Stacksteads and Tunstead societies, and these are now one and working most amicably and well together. The Hours and Wages Board has had a strenuous year and have held a large number of meetings, whilst on two occasions, as no settlement could be arrived at, the matter went forward to arbitration. We have not the slightest doubt in our mind but that the board has been of the greatest value to all societies, and has been able to secure better arrangements all round than could have been done by any one society. There is also the value of uniformity which alone is secured by all societies working together for the common good of all. During the year a deputation appointed by the executive met the Member of Parliament for the division, Sir J. H. Maden, M.P., and the exchange of views with the hon. member proved at

any rate that in him co-operators could rely upon one who would prove to the movement a true friend. For nearly 30 years Mr. Maden, M.P., has been a member of the Baeup Society, and he feels very strongly that no injustice should be done to the movement in any way. We might say a great deal as to the work that has been done in the district during the past twelve months but the exigencies of space forbid. The executive have met four times as well as before each quarterly conference, and many matters have been dealt with by them.

The first conference of the year was held on 27th January, at Waterfoot, when Mr. James Sharples gave a valuable address on "Income Tax, with exemptions, abatements, and allowances from a legal point of view." Mr. Sharples gave much valuable information, and the meeting was of a very helpful character. Many of the delegates, as members of committees, &c., were being brought into contact with these things and to have the opportunity of listening to one who, like Mr. Sharples, has made a special study of the subject, was not only interesting but was the means of giving very helpful information to many of those present.

The second conference was held at Whitewell Bottom on 14th April, when Mr. W. W. Whittle (secretary of the Preston Society) read his paper on "Dividend," which created a very lively discussion. There was much difference of opinion as to the value of high or low dividends from a co-operative point of view, but the majority of those present seemed to think that our interests lie in aiming at a dividend which should not, in any circumstances, get above two shillings. Mr. Whittle made an exhaustive reply, and said that whilst the matter of high and low dividends was a large one the question should, in his opinion, be settled by each society entirely and absolutely on its merits.

The third conference was, owing to the delightful weather, held out of doors. As it was under the auspices of the Water Society the gathering was held in the grounds attached to Lumb Baptist Schools. Mr. Charles Hughes read the paper prepared by Messrs. Bradshaw and Thompson on "Is it desirable or expedient for Co-operators to be Directly Represented in Parliament?" After reading the paper in a very able manner, Mr. Hughes moved a resolution in favour of direct representation, and in the discussion the feeling generally was that only by means of this could co-operators hope to get justice and fair play from those in authority. The resolution in favour of direct representation, both in Parliament and on all local bodies, was carried by sixty votes to two.

The last conference of the year was held at Bacup on 27th October, when Mr. S. Fairbrother read his paper on "Should Co-operators seek Direct Representation in Parliament?" The writer argued that it was possible to secure all that co-operators need without risking the breaking up of the movement by such a scheme of Parliamentary representation as is proposed. The discussion, which was mainly on the opposite side to the one taken up by the reader of the paper, showed that all the difficulties mentioned were

common to all democratic movements whenever they attempted to secure power which had formerly belonged to the ordinary political parties. Good, however, was certain to be done by the fact that the opposite side was shown and brought out by the paper. A very spirited reply was made by the reader, who dealt in an able manner with the various points raised.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	5	7	1
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	15	1	2	„ Conferences and other Meetings..	3	8	10
				„ Joint Meetings	0	17	2
				„ Propaganda Meetings	2	1	10
				„ General Printing	0	5	8
				„ Postages	0	18	0
				„ Stationery	0	8	0
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917....	6	0	0
	£21	1	2		£21	1	2

J. W. HARGREAVES, Secretary.

No. 16.—SOUTH YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Gillies (chairman), Doncaster.	Mr. J. Cauldwell, Barnsley.
„ J. Dimberline (secretary), Darnall, Sheffield.	„ L. Holmes, Goole.
„ G. Major (statistical secretary), Rotherham.	„ E. Cusworth, Killamarsh.
„ J. Greaves, Chesterfield.	„ J. C. Kenworthy, Deepcar, near Sheffield.

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
17th Feb.	Doncaster ...	Income Tax.....	Mr. J. Sharples.
19th May	Masbro'.	Current Co-operative Topics	Professor Hall.
23rd June ...	Sheffield.....	Rules for the Hours and Wages Board	Mr. J.C.Kenworthy.
25th August..	Attercliffe ...	District Reports.....	Messrs. Major and Laing.
17th Nov.....	Chesterfield ..	Direct Representation	Mr. J. Bradshaw

We have pleasure in submitting our thirty-ninth report to Congress.

Eight executive meetings and five conferences have been held, a list of the latter is appended.

We have also had meetings of a committee consisting of the executive and a number of the leading co-operators in the district to arrange meetings and appoint speakers. Over eighty of these meetings have been held, at which it was pointed out to the people the manner in which the movement had been treated by those in power—by refusing the assistance of co-operators, by not giving them representation on the various bodies and committees

formed to carry on the work of feeding the people, so that we, the only organised body of consumers in the country, are suffering as a consequence; therefore, because we had not organised in a political way we had no one where the laws are made and administered, and so they took advantage of our shortcomings and imposed upon us such injustices as the Excess Profits Duty and threaten us with Income Tax. Many of these meetings were held in the open air, at street corners, thus getting hold of people that never come to any of our meetings held in rooms.

One remarkable result of this campaign has been the change of opinion in men who have for many years believed the movement should have nothing to do with politics; they have not only been converted but, in some cases, have become ardent advocates of direct representation.

At our first conference Mr. Sharples gave an address on the question of "Income Tax." The address was most instructive, and his elaboration of the separate schedules was very much enjoyed by the delegates present.

Professor F. Hall, M.A., at Masbro', on "Current Co-operative Topics," made a special plea for co-ordination and continuity, and more method both in conference and propaganda work; also that we must look more after the educational side of the movement. The grant is not an investment to be returned in £ s. d., but in building up a better race of people.

At Sheffield Mr. G. Major, in giving the statistical report, proved that he had taken great trouble, and he must have been rewarded by the interest that was taken in it by the delegates.

At Chesterfield, the scheme for "Co-operative Parliamentary Representation," as amended and adopted at the National Emergency Conference held in London, was taken by Mr. J. Bradshaw. He clearly showed that the only hope for success, so far as our movement is concerned in the future, is by placing men and women in the place where laws are made and administered. It was decided to adjourn the question and take it up at the next conference, in the meantime societies to try and form political councils in the district.

So far as the general work of co-operation in the district goes, it is carried on under very much the same difficulties as in other districts—shortage of supplies, depletion of male staffs, and general grumbling by our members. Yet, in spite of it all, increases in trade, membership, and share capital are reported which, after all, proves that co-operation has taken a hold on the people, that, if its leaders are wise, will not be shaken off.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	10	13	10
„ Grant from Union	40	4	10	„ Conference Meetings	12	15	3
				„ Hours and Wages Board	1	16	4
				„ Propaganda Meetings	9	12	5
				„ Scrutineers	0	12	3
				„ Delegations	1	11	8
				„ Postages and Stationery	1	3	1
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917	6	0	0
	£46	4	10		£46	4	10

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917..	15	3 10	By Wages and Hours Board	54	0 0
„ Subscriptions by Women's Guild	0	10 0	„ Congress Expenses.....	5	0 0
„ Subscriptions from Societies	64	19 0	„ Delegations	4	13 6
			„ Propaganda Meetings	11	9 8
			„ Postage and Carriage.....	0	18 4
			„ Special Conference.....	3	16 4
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1917....	0	15 0
Audited and Found Correct—					
JOHN E. FORSTER,					
March 6, 1918.					
	£80	12 10		£80	12 10

J. DIMBERLINE, Secretary.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES' ASSOCIATION.

Officers and Committee.

Mr. Jas. S. Armitage, J.P. (president), Huddersfield.	Mr. H. Bland, Bradford.
„ W. A. Lambert (hon. treasurer), Accrington.	„ J. W. Tiffany, Failsworth.
„ E. Couldwell (hon. secretary), Brightside and Carbrook.	„ J. F. Ashworth, Eccles.
„ T. Marsden, Leeds.	„ C. Anders, Liverpool.
	„ J. C. Hill, Bury.
	„ J. W. Barbook, Oldham.
	„ John Seed, Bolton.

Representative from Sectional Board : Mr. B. Woolfenden, Rochdale.

Hon. Auditor : Mr. S. Berry, Public Auditor, Oldham.

Your executive have pleasure in presenting the annual report for the past year. In reviewing the work of the association the executive have been brought face to face with the difficulties which societies have to meet in order to keep in touch with the work of the association. We wish to assure the members that the executive will spare no effort in order to overcome the difficulties. The subjects which have been brought before the members for discussion have been of vital importance to the educational workers of the co-operative movement.

The thirtieth annual meeting was held at Doncaster on Saturday, 24th March, 1917, under the auspices of the Doncaster Co-operative Society's Educational Committee. Doncaster being on the extreme end of the section the attendance was not as large as usual. The Co-operative Choral Society rendered selections of music in an admirable manner during the conference.

Mr. Jas. S. Armitage gave an address, subject : "The Difficulties of Educational Committees." Mr. Armitage pointed out some of the changes which were to be introduced in our national system of education, and which have had the vigorous support of the co-operative movement during the past few months. An interesting discussion followed.

The officers elected for the year were as follows :—President, Mr. Jas. S. Armitage, J.P. (Huddersfield); hon. treasurer, Mr. W. A. Lambert (Accrington and Church); hon. secretary, Mr. E. Couldwell (Brightside and Carbrook). The following societies were elected to appoint representatives to the executive :—Bolton, Bury, Eccles, and City of Liverpool. Mr. S. Berry (public auditor, of Oldham) was re-elected hon. auditor for the year.

The one-hundred-and-twenty-third quarterly conference was held on Saturday, 23rd June, 1917, under the auspices of the Educational Committee of the York Equitable Industrial Society Limited, there being a fair number of delegates present.

Mr. F. Hall, M.A., B.Com. (adviser of studies to the Co-operative Union), gave an address on the "Extended Programme of Co-operative Education." Mr. Hall pointed out three immediate needs : (1) enlarged curriculum; (2) organisation of co-operative educationalists; (3) an educational magazine. An interesting discussion followed.

Competition for Brooches and Medals in the Study of "Co-operation."—The association again offered prizes in the form of brooches and medals to students (whose societies are members of this association) in the Third Section re-examination. We congratulate the Bolton Society's students on being the winners of all the prizes — Esther Holden, first gold brooch, 110 marks; Nellie Hamer, second gold brooch, 109 marks; John Demain, first gold medal, 108 marks; Herbert Hardman, second medal, 107 marks.

The second Annual Teachers' Conference was held at Holyoake House, Manchester, on Saturday, 1st September, 1917, there being a good attendance of teachers and delegates present.

Mr. Etchells gave an address in which he emphasised the importance of co-operative character being formed in the lives of young people, the address being an inspiration to those present. The discussion which followed brought from the teachers various methods adopted to educate the children in the principles of co-operation.

The one-hundred-and-twenty-fourth quarterly conference was held at Leeds on Saturday, 22nd September, 1917, under the auspices of the Educational Committee of the Leeds Industrial Society Limited.

Mr. Joseph Smith (chairman of the Leeds Educational Committee) read a paper, subject : "The Survey Committee's Report on the Constitution and Work of the Central Educational Authority." Mr. Smith emphasised the need for a closer connecting link between the Central Authority and the educational committees throughout the country. The report was criticised from the point of advocating representatives' expenses being paid by the body represented, instead of payment from the Union funds. An interesting discussion followed, to which Mr. Smith briefly replied.

The one-hundred-and-twenty-fifth quarterly conference was held at Manchester on Saturday, 1st December, 1917, under the auspices of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

Mrs. A. Blair (Liverpool) read her paper on "The Co-operative Survey Committee's Recommendations in Relation to Local Educational Committees." Mrs. Blair criticised the Survey Committee's recommendations on the constitution of a Distributive Society's Educational Committee, and the change of basis of educational grant percentage to a fixed sum per member of society.

During the year the following societies' educational committees have been admitted to membership of the association :—Scunthorpe, Selby and District, Sheffield and Ecclesall, and Batley Women's Co-operative Guild.

The executive ask for the continued support of societies in appointing delegates to conferences. We are pleased to note the desire of members to make the association of greater service to the movement, which we heartily reciprocate.

E. COULDWELL, Hon. Secretary.

(5) SCOTTISH SECTION.

At the first meeting of the Scottish Section, held in Glasgow on 2nd June, 1917, the following, among other appointments, were made for the Congress year :—

Chairman : Mr. James Allan.

Treasurer : Mr. John Patterson.

Executive Committee Messrs. J. Allan, J. Deans (secretary), A. Purdie, P. Loney, J. Lucas, J. M. Wilkie, and G. Wilson.

Representatives to the United Board ... Messrs. G. Bisset and G. Wilson.

Representative to the Office Committee Mr. G. Wilson.

Representative to Central Education Committee Mr. J. Lucas.

Representative to quarterly meetings of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited Mr. A. Purdie.

Representatives to the Joint Arbitration Board, consisting of Representatives from the Scottish Section and the Parliamentary Committee of the Scottish Trades Union Congress :

Messrs. J. Allan, J. Deans, G. Bisset, and J. M. Wilkie.

During the Congress year the Sectional Board has held 10 meetings, the attendance of members being as follows :—

	Absent.	Present.
James Allan	0	10
George Bisset	1	9
James Deans	0	10
Patrick Loney	0	10
James Lucas	1	9
Neil Maclean	0	10
John Patterson	0	10
Andrew Purdie	0	10
James M. Wilkie	0	10
George Wilson	0	10

In addition to the meetings of the Sectional Board the Executive Committee has held frequent meetings, at which a summary of the correspondence received between meetings has been submitted and dealt with.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

This conference was held in Falkirk, on Saturday, 28th April, 1917. Mr. James Allan (chairman of the Sectional Board) occupied the chair, and there was a record attendance. The annual reports and balance sheets of the Scottish Section, District Conference Associations, and the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild were submitted and passed, and resolutions were submitted and passed on the following matters :—

1. Protesting against the application of the Excess Profits Duty to the surpluses of co-operative societies.
2. Protesting against the proposal to assess the dividends of co-operative societies with income tax.
3. In favour of the appointment of an advisory committee consisting of representatives from the co-operative, trade union, and labour bodies.
4. In favour of co-operative representation on Government boards and committees.
5. Protesting against the method of the allocation of sugar to the societies.
6. In favour of the immediate closing of all places for the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors and of confections, with the object of increasing the supply of sugar to the people.
7. Defining the qualifications necessary by co-operative candidates for public bodies.
8. In favour of the setting up of defence committees in each Parliamentary constituency in Scotland.
9. In favour of the Government taking over the ownership of land, mines, railways, shipping, and banking, to enable the Government to meet the liabilities created by the war.
10. In favour of fraternal greetings being sent to the co-operative movement and free people in Russia.

Several other matters of practical importance to the co-operative movement were discussed.

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING.

The annual joint meeting of the members of the section and representatives from the District Conference Associations was held in the Section Offices, Glasgow, on 16th June, 1917. Mr. James Allan (chairman of the section) occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. Mr. J. Deans introduced a discussion on the resolution passed at the National Conference, remitting it to the section to set up a Defence Committee, with the object of organising the political vote and promoting the success of the direct representation of co-operation in Parliament. He outlined a proposed method of setting up these committees, their work, and a method of financing them. The matter was remitted

to the Sectional Board to put into practical operation. The Annual Report and Balance Sheet of the Scottish National Propaganda Committee was submitted and adopted, and agreed that the committee be continued for another year with a slight change in its methods. Mr. James Lucas addressed the meeting on Educational Methods, in which he recommended several reforms in connection therewith, which gave rise to a very interesting discussion.

POLITICAL MATTERS.

The District Defence Committees, agreed upon at the National Conference, have now been successfully set up, one in each conference district.

A Central Committee, consisting of one representative from each of the District Defence Committees and three from the Scottish Section, has also been set up, the main object of which is to unify the work, and to act as an Advisory Committee to the District Committees. These committees are now in full operation, and there is every reason to think that, when thoroughly organised, they will accomplish much practical and valuable work in promoting the success of the direct representation of co-operation in Parliament.

MEETING AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WITH SCOTTISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Taking advantage of the Emergency Conference, held in London on 17th and 18th October, 1917, the section arranged a meeting of Scottish Members of Parliament and Scottish delegates, to consider co-operators' grievances with regard to food supplies and other matters. About thirty members were present and there was a large attendance of delegates. The Right Hon. Mr. McKinnon Wood presided. Mr. H. W. May (secretary to the Co-operative Parliamentary Committee) introduced the subject of the societies being made liable for excess profits duty, and also the unfair treatment societies had received from military tribunals in the calling up of their employees. Mr. Robert Stewart introduced the subject of the control of the foodstuffs as it affected co-operative societies and gave many striking instances of the unfair manner in which they had been treated, and the serious effects this had had upon their business. Several questions were put by Members of Parliament and replied to, and the meeting closed with votes of thanks to the members for meeting the delegates.

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Joint Advisory Committee has been formed as agreed upon at the National Conference, consisting of three representatives from the Scottish Section, the Directors of the S.C.W.S., the Trades Union Parliamentary Committee, and the Scottish Labour Party, and is doing very useful work in connection with the Scottish Education Bill and matters of importance to the working class generally.

WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

Arising out of the joint meeting of the members of the section and representatives from the District Conference Associations, a War Emergency

Committee has been formed, consisting of three representatives from the Scottish Section, the Directors of the S.C.W.S., and the Scottish Co-operative Managers' Association. The functions of the committee are to advise and assist societies in any emergency which may arise during the war, to consider and suggest methods which will better prepare societies to stand the strain which will be felt, and to assist in solving any problems which may arise. The committee has held several meetings and has issued two circulars to societies, one bearing upon co-operative finance and the other upon the food problem.

REPRESENTATION ON LIVE STOCK COMMISSIONS.

Early in the winter the Government decided to set up six Live Stock Commissions in Scotland, the powers of which are very far-reaching, including the power to requisition cattle, to grade them, and fix the price. The commissions are composed of farmers, butchers, and auctioneers. It soon became evident that co-operative societies were not included on the commissions, and as it was considered essential for the protection of co-operative societies that they should be represented strong representations were made to the Live Stock Commissioner for Scotland by deputation and otherwise. Four conferences were convened by the Scottish Section, two for the western area (Glasgow) and two for the central area (Perth), consisting of representatives from retail societies with fleshing departments within the areas. As a result of the pressure thus put upon the Live Stock Commissioner for Scotland, two co-operative representatives have been appointed on the central area and three on the western area. At the date of writing this report societies in other areas are moving for representation on the commissions.

ORGANISATION OF CO-OPERATIVE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS.

Towards the end of 1917 the section issued a circular to societies in Scotland pointing out the importance of the cultivation of allotments upon the food problems arising out of the war, and urging upon them to organise their members who are allotment holders so that the system might be extended and made more efficient and the allotment holders brought into contact with the Seed Department of the S.C.W.S. The response to the circular has been fairly satisfactory. At the request of the section Mr. G. G. Young (manager of the S.C.W.S. Calderwood Estate) prepared a pamphlet containing many practical and valuable hints on "The Cultivation of Allotments." The pamphlet was published by the Co-operative Union, and the Scottish Section have distributed 5,000 copies free of charge to co-operative allotment holders' associations.

LEGAL MATTERS.

The services of Mr. E. J. Gunn, consulting solicitor to the section, during the past year have been drawn upon by societies to a much greater extent than in any previous period, and have been of much practical value to societies on such questions as food control, the action of the military tribunals, and excess profits duty as applied to co-operative societies, and on many other points bearing on the administration of the business affairs of co-operative societies.

SPECIAL CONFERENCES.

Two special conferences have been held—one on 29th September, 1917, and the other on 26th January, 1918, both in Glasgow—and both conferences were largely attended. At the conference in September the subject for discussion was "Co-operative Policy and Programme," introduced by Professor Hall, which gave rise to a very interesting discussion, touching upon many points vitally affecting the consolidation and prosperity of co-operative enterprise, to which Professor Hall replied. The subject for discussion at the conference in January was "The Necessity for a Compulsory System of Rationing," on a basis securing equitable treatment to all sections of the community. A resolution to that effect was proposed by Mr. George Wilson (Scottish Section) and supported by Mr. Robert Stewart (chairman S.C.W.S.) and unanimously passed, copy of which was sent to the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Food, and Lord Rhondda.

PROPAGANDA.

The National Propaganda Committee has been very active during the year. At its first meeting it was agreed to change to some extent the purpose of its work, making its object not so much to create new members as to educate present members on the principles and ideals of Industrial Co-operation. An appeal for funds was issued to societies, which met with a prompt and liberal response. During the year over fifty public meetings have been held, covering every part of Scotland, at which addresses have been delivered touching upon every phase of co-operative policy and effort, and at which many thousands of leaflets have been distributed. With very few exceptions the meetings have been very satisfactory, both in attendance and interest. At present the committee are engaged in organising one or more public meetings within each of the seven sections of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild, with the object of interesting women in the national system of rationing and in promoting its success, and also in the nature, power, and application of the franchise recently conferred upon women.

ANNUAL FRATERNAL GATHERING.

This gathering was held on 2nd January in the premises of the U.C.B.S., Glasgow. The attendance exceeded 100, representing many districts of Scotland. At the morning session the subject for discussion was "Some Co-operative Problems," introduced by Mr. Deans, on which ensued a very interesting discussion. The afternoon session was taken up by an excellent musical programme, rendered by a company of artists consisting almost entirely of employees of the S.C.W.S. Drapery Department. Altogether the gathering proved most successful.

SUMMER SCHOOL AND WEEK-END MEETINGS.

Considering the acute crisis the country was passing through, the increased fares, and restricted railway service, it was thought advisable not to proceed with the Summer School last year, but efforts are being made to organise a Summer

School for the present year and a few week-end meetings. As soon as it is found practicable to proceed intimation will be given to the societies.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE CONVALESCENT HOMES.

The disastrous effect of the war on the homes continues, and, for the third successive year, a heavy deficiency in the maintenance account is recorded. The continued increase in the cost of provisions, restricted railway facilities and high fares, the presence of widespread bereavement and incertitude as to the welfare of others, have undoubtedly been elements in the personal life of the people, militating against their taking advantage of such places as the homes. The abnormal times the homes are experiencing should be taken into consideration, and contributions made on as generous a scale as possible. The growing shortage of foodstuffs has added to the anxieties of administering the homes, and the decrease in admissions has also been a regrettable feature of the year. The effort to raise a fund for the extension of Mothers and Children's House has been crowned with success, the necessary figure not only having been attained but surpassed, and for this achievement the homes are indebted to all those societies that so liberally supported the scheme.

JAMES ALLAN, Chairman.

JAMES DEANS, Secretary.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION LTD.

In submitting our annual report of the year's work, we are pleased to note that income has increased by nearly £100 over last year. This increase is due largely to the increased amount collected at conference and other meetings. We welcome this as a sign that the interest in our work is being helped by the conference committees. Another increase worth noting is one of £25 by the Drapery and Furnishing Society over their last year's grant of £5. This has enabled us to propose an increased grant of 25 per cent to all the veterans on our list. We can further increase our usefulness if societies will send us any deserving case for our consideration.

During the year four veterans have been added to our list. Other cases, requiring careful handling, have been given every consideration. We thank the societies sending those applications for their ready help and willingness to supply all the information in their power.

One veteran and a member of committee, Mr. W. Meikle (Paisley), have died during the year, leaving 35 veterans on the list, while the shareholding societies have been increased by five to 60, the fund available for distribution being £328. 19s. 11d.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEET

Income.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
From Societies.....	322	4 0	Paid to Veterans	360	5 6
„ Guilds	96	2 4	Balance Sheets, Management, &c. ..	38	16 0½
„ Individuals	43	7 6			
„ Collections at Meetings	44	14 0½		399	1 6½
„ Conference Associations	8	12 0	Banked and lodged in U.C.B.S. ...	349	14 1
„ Interest	8	12 8	Cash Balance, December, 1917.....	3	6 5
Total income	463	12 6½			
„ Bank and U.C.B.S.	264	0 0			
„ Shares	5	0 0			
Cash Balance, December, 1916.....	19	9 6			
	£752	2 0½		£752	2 0½

WM. PETTIGREW, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—AYRSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John Cosgrove (president), Hurlford.	Mr. James Hopes (auditor), Dalmellington.
Baillie Dunlop (treasurer), Galston.	
Mr. Wm. Anderson (secretary), Kilbirnie.	„ Hugh Stewart (auditor), Newmilns.
„ William M. Scott (statistical secretary), Kilbirnie.	„ Thomas Imrie, Stevenston.
	„ Samuel Clark, Kilmarnock.
	„ John Milroy, Maybole.
	„ Robert Howat, New Cumnock.

For the fourth year in succession we are submitting our annual report, with all the horrors and ravages of war unabated.

It has been a year of great anxiety to all, and the outlook is still far from being bright. Very trying and harassing has been the lot of boards of management, members of societies, and employees, caused, to a greater or less degree, by the great shortage of food supplies and scarcity of labour.

Voluntary rationing has been resorted to by many of our societies, and this is now being followed by national rationing.

The great increase shown in our membership has also had the effect of making our supplies still shorter, and the various control bodies set up to deal with the food of the people have almost ignored our claims for increased supplies to meet the wants of our members.

All things being considered, it is good to show, by our comparative statement, that on all points progress is shown. Some of it can be traced to the high prices presently ruling, but not all, as increase in membership has also been made :—

	Members.	Sales.	Profits.	Capital.
1917	41,475 ..	£2,142,179 ..	£267,387 ..	£847,322
1916	38,909 ..	1,783,512 ..	249,220 ..	801,561
Increase for Year ..	2,566	£358,667	£18,167	£45,761

During the year the activities of the association have in no way abated, and all our regular meetings have been well attended, in spite of the great restrictions placed on our train service. All of our meetings have had to be held in Kilmarnock, as only from this centre is it possible for delegates to get train connections to carry them to their respective destinations.

The first, or annual meeting, was held on 24th March, at Kilmarnock, under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, 122 delegates being present.

Mr. James Deans (Scottish Section) read Mr. Allan M'Neil's paper on "Co-operative Banking," and the need for capital, if our movement was to capture our opponents' trade, was impressed on all present.

Mr. John Cosgrove (Hurlford) was elected president, and Mr. John Milroy (Maybole) elected to Executive.

Galston Branch of the Women's Guild was admitted to membership.

Mr. Scott (statistical secretary) submitted statement for year, and he strongly counselled all to see to it that not dividend, but the financial stability of their society, was their chief concern.

The second meeting was held on 23rd June, under the auspices of Kilmarnock Society, and was attended by 113 delegates.

Councillor Wheatley (Glasgow) gave a rousing and spirited address on "Better Housing." He gave much food for thought by the statements made as the results of bad housing on the health of people, and wished the co-operative movement to bestir itself to help to solve this problem. The cost of money was the great drawback, and he pressed for the State to provide the money free of interest as the one way of having better housing.

After discussion, Mr. Wheatley was warmly thanked for his address.

Mr. Robert Howat returned his thanks for the privilege he had of attending Congress as their representative, and wished for the enthusiasm of Congress to spread all over.

Dreghorn Women's Guild was admitted into membership.

The third meeting was held on 22nd September, and was under the auspices of Kilbirnie Society. There was an attendance of 122 delegates.

Two motions were considered. Mauchline Society proposed "Half-yearly meetings of the association, instead of quarterly, during the war." After consideration, the previous question was carried. Kilmarnock Society proposed "That we have reciprocal representation with the Ayrshire Trades Council." After a vote, it was agreed to.

A resolution was moved "To support the Labour members of school boards for a better education to the workers' children, with maintenance grant to those requiring same, with school age being raised to 16." An amendment to make it "every child," instead of "those requiring same," was also made. It was agreed to allow the question to lie over for three months for further consideration.

The fourth meeting was held under the auspices of Irvine and Fullarton Society on 22nd December, and was attended by 125 delegates.

The Survey Report was introduced by Mr. James Deans (Scottish Section), who emphasised some of the points in same—"Education," "Finance," "Literature," and "Propaganda Work" all being dealt with.

In the discussion that followed the various points were taken up and dealt with, Mr. Deans being warmly thanked for his paper.

The motion on the raising of the school age of children, with maintenance grant to all between the years of 13 and 16, was carried unanimously.

A protest was also agreed to on the Education Bill for Scotland, substituting county councils for school boards, and copies of motion and protest were to be forwarded to the Secretary for Scotland and Sir John Struthers, Scottish Educational Department.

Section VI. of the Women's Guild was admitted to membership.

National Men's Guild (Scottish District) was also admitted to membership.

Mr. John Cosgrove, who had been delegate to the Emergency Conference at London, thanked them for the honour.

A special conference was held at Kilmarnock to consider the "proposal to tax co-operators." Bailie Dunlop introduced the question, giving many details as to how the movement would be crippled by same, and urging political action to defeat the traders' attempt to tax us.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROPAGANDA WORK.

Through the Scottish National Propaganda Committee, and by the members of the Executive, many meetings have been held, both indoors and outside—Kilmarnock, Kilbirnie, Kilwinning, Kirkconnel, Galston, Beith, &c., all being visited, and stimulating and helpful addresses given. All the various men's and women's guilds and educational committees are as active and full of life as ever; new committees and branches have been formed in some districts, and have proved very helpful to the societies.

DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

This committee has been formed to organise the co-operative vote for local and Parliamentary elections, and in the time that has elapsed since they were formed into a body they have accomplished a great deal.

They have been able to visit every society that is connected with our association, and have pressed the claims for organisation so well that in many societies local committees have been set up to carry through the matter in a systematic way. We look for results in the future from the labours expended.

OBITUARY.

It has been the painful and regretful duty at nearly all our meetings for the president to have to refer to the uncertainty of life and the removal of some earnest leader and worker in the movement through death.

Our Chairman, at our March meeting, referred to Mr. Peter Glasse (director, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) and Mr. James Dunsmore (Kilmarnock), then Mr. George Smith (Kilmarnock), who had been for a long period statistical secretary; but the most serious and startling of all was the death of our late president, Judge Flinn. He occupied the chair at our March quarterly meeting, and in June was presented with a very tangible token of the appreciation of the co-operators of Ayrshire and district of his work in connection with the movement; but by our next meeting the intimation was made that he had had a stroke, and passed away after a few days' illness. A sad and painful part was the presentation of a fine framed congratulatory address from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. Mr. Stewart (chairman) handed the same over to Judge Flinn's brother to convey to the family.

Our sympathy goes out to them and to all who mourn their loss.

We would return our thanks to the societies that have entertained the delegates at the various meetings for the hospitality extended, and to the

gave another push, so that you have now got, in each conference area, a central committee for co-operative representation on public bodies.

We voice the opinion of the committees and managers of every society that the present has been the most harassing time in the history of our movement. Shortage of supplies, accompanied with Government restrictions, have been a source of worry and annoyance. Rationing has now come before us prominently. We hope it will not be for long.

The December meeting of our conference had to be unavoidably put off, owing to the restricted train service. We cannot always put off our meetings, so we decided to hold our annual meeting in Galashiels, under the auspices of the Conference Association. Under the present conditions the executive consider that there should be no invitations from societies to meet under their auspices until such times as conditions, with regard to the food supply, have again become pretty normal.

The several institutions connected with the movement are still carrying on their good work. New branches of women's guilds and educational associations have been opened.

Propaganda meetings have been held in several of the towns in the conference area, which we hope will result in good to our movement.

Again we extend our sincere sympathy to those who have been called upon to bear the heavy price that war extorts from the people.

The annual meeting was held on the 17th March, 1917, under the auspices of the Walkerburn Society, Mr. Geo. Fisher (president) presiding. Mr. Wm. Christison (president of the Walkerburn Society) cordially welcomed the delegates. Mr. Peter Shortreed (Peebles) was elected to the executive in place of Mr. Thomas Millar (deceased). Mr. Thomas N. Ralston was re-elected secretary. Mr. George Fisher was nominated as president, and was also elected to represent the conference at the Swansea Congress. The annual report and statistical return was submitted and accepted.

Mr. William Christison read a paper on "Co-operative Dairy Farming," and pointed out the advantages of a pure milk supply, advocating each society to take the matter up. An interesting discussion took place, and Mr. Christison was thanked on the call of Mr. James Smith (Galashiels).

The second meeting was held in the Corn Exchange Hall, Earlston, on the 16th June, 1917, under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Mr. Geo. Fisher (president) presiding. Ex-Bailie Thos. Little welcomed the delegates on behalf of his fellow-directors.

Mr. Geo. Fisher was re-elected president. Mr. R. Laidlaw (Hawick) was nominated for the executive. Mr. Geo. Fisher having been unable to go to Congress, Mr. Thomas N. Ralston attended, and gave a very lucid and interesting report of the same.

Mr. Neil O'Hara submitted the report of the sub-committee regarding the Earlston Relief Fund.

Mr. Campbell (president of Earlston Society) conveyed the thanks of his fellow-members to the movement for their great consideration in their time of distress.

Ex-Bailie Little addressed the meeting.

Walkerburn Society submitted a motion asking for information with regard to beginning dairy farming on federation lines, which was left with the executive, along with a member from each society not represented on the executive.

Resolution approving of the Scottish Section taking action to organise the co-operative vote was agreed to.

It was agreed that we affiliate to the Workers' Educational Association.

The third meeting was held in the St. James's Hall, Hawick, on the 15th September, 1917, under the auspices of the Hawick Society, Mr. Geo. Fisher (president) presiding. Mr. R. Laidlaw (president, Hawick Society) gave the delegates a cordial welcome. Mr. R. Laidlaw was re-elected a member of the executive. Mr. Thomas J. Bolster was nominated as treasurer. Mr. William Christison and Mr. Peter Shortreed were nominated as members of the executive. Mr. G. A. Kyle was elected auditor, in place of Mr. Thomas Storie, resigned, owing to going abroad.

The report of the special committee on the milk supply question was submitted by Mr. Ralston, on behalf of the committee, and accepted.

Representation on public bodies circular was agreed to, and a committee to be appointed consisting of one representative from each society and two from the conference executive.

Mr. R. Laidlaw read an interesting paper on "Co-operation and Its Future," which brought forth a keen discussion. Mr. Laidlaw received a cordial vote of thanks.

It was agreed that the December meeting be not held, owing to the many difficulties, unless some important business came forward or arrangements got better.

The executive desire to put on record its best thanks to the societies under whose auspices it has met during the past year, and for the hospitality extended to all those who were privileged to attend the meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance from last year	66	2 1	By Committee Expenses	16	1 10
„ Contributions from Societies	61	9 1	„ Delegates' and Travelling Expenses.....	11	4 9
„ Co-operative Union.....	3	0 0	„ Delegate to Congress.....	13	3 6
„ Advertisements	6	0 0	„ Secretary's Salary	3	0 0
„ Motor Expenses (repaid Earlston) ..	0	10 10	„ Printing	11	0 4
„ Interest from Bank.....	1	2 2	„ Stamps, Stationery, and Bank Commission	1	13 10
			„ Subscription to Co-operative Convalescent Homes.....	1	15 0
			„ Subscription to Workers' Educational Association	1	1 0
			„ Cash in the Bank	77	2 0
			„ Cash in hand	2	1 11
Audited—					
G. A. KYLE.					
<hr/> £138 4 2			<hr/> £138 4 2		

THOS. N. RALSTON, *Secretary.*

No. 3.—CENTRAL.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John Brown (president), Wishaw.	Mr. Robert M. Prentice (secretary), Coatbridge.
„ Joseph Kay (vice-president), Carlisle.	„ Maxwell Bryce (statistical secretary), Burnbank.
„ Archibald Muir (treasurer), Motherwell.	„ Thos. McAuslin, Bellshill.
„ David R. Lockhart (auditor), Motherwell.	„ Matthew McPhail, Blantyre.
	„ Dugald Waddell, Hamilton.
	„ Patrick McBride, Lanark.

Never in the history of the co-operative movement in Lanarkshire has there been a more earnest revival of propaganda activity than at present, and it is necessary, because, up to now, we have failed to lay hold of all manner of legitimate means to make ourselves strong in the faith of nobler living, to quicken us regarding our responsibilities as co-operative citizens. Towards the furtherance of these ends the Central Conference Association has bestirred itself during the year to meeting the exigencies of peculiar times. At the quarterly meetings of the association all questions of vital moment to co-operators have been discussed, but these have paled in significance compared with the national co-operative policy and programme.

The question of co-operators entering into the political arena is one which has been discussed frequently, and the old-time opposition offered. But the trend of opinion is that some action, political or otherwise, will require to be taken in order to maintain our status as a great factor in the distribution of commodities and a power to be reckoned with regarding the real life-giving aspects of the movement. Parliamentary (direct, if possible) is the only solution to such a problem.

Our educational system has been overhauled, and our co-operative educational system has been purged of its "draw-the-line" policy, and we have set upon the broadest possible basis so that all may learn and all may become useful members of society.

The success which has attended the societies in our area has been phenomenal, and this has been achieved in face of Food Shortage, Excess Profits Tax, and a fall in the savings.

The record of propaganda work for the year is one which gives some satisfaction, and is most creditable to the black country. Societies with educational committees have been most energetic in their efforts to more firmly establish the principles of co-operation in their respective localities; moreover, they have set out in search of "lost sheep," which is one of the most commendable phases of propaganda work. Innumerable meetings have been held in most of the societies, particularly with respect to concentrating our efforts on political representation. The National Propaganda Committee and the Central Conference Committee have between them arranged eight open-air

No. 4.—EAST OF SCOTLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. William Nimmo (president), Armadale.	Mr. Edward Young, Leith Provident.
„ George Peddie (secretary), Leith Walk, Edinburgh.	„ William D. Gready, St. Cuthbert's
„ George Gray (treasurer), St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh.	„ John D. Munro, St. Cuthbert's.
	„ John Clark, Penicuik.
	„ William Colville (auditor).
	„ Jas. C. Cessford (auditor).

We have again the privilege of submitting for your approval a summary of the past year's proceedings.

The times have been throughout a period of the greatest gravity. In the movement it falls to be recorded that this has been the year of the great decision. Congress by vast majorities pronounced in favour of political action, and our own association through repeated resolutions has maintained the same attitude of self-reliance. The extension of the franchise to women and the treatment meted out to co-operators by those in power has created the opportunity, so that the time is ripe for direct parliamentary representation and the view-point of such a large section of the community being stamped on future legislation.

Evidence of the progress of the movement within our area is to be found in the altered position of the combined societies, as shown in the following tables :—

	Members.	Sales. £	Profits £	Share Capital. £
1917	104,137	5,098,356	925,129	1,495,458
1916	91,930	4,272,256	854,014	1,544,214
Increase for year....	12,207	£826,100	£71,115	D £48,756

D Decrease.

CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

Our statutory meetings have been attended by delegates and visitors to the utmost capacity of the hall space. Mr. William Nimmo, J.P., has presided at all our meetings with marked ability and much acceptance.

The first quarterly conference, or annual meeting, was held in the Assembly Rooms, Leith, under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. Mr. James Young gave the delegates a hearty welcome. Mr. William Nimmo was appointed president; Mr. George Gray, treasurer; Messrs. W. D. Gready and H. D. Munro, members of committee; and Messrs. W. Colville and J. C. Cessford, auditors. Mr. J. M. Wilkie (Scottish Sectional Board) read a paper on "The Policy of Co-operators re Taxation of Dividends and Excess Profits Duty." At the close the speaker moved a resolution, which was adopted.

The second conference took place in the Town Hall, Prestonpans, on the invitation of the local society. Mr. Andrew Young, in a stirring and enthusi-

astic address, moved a resolution against taxation of co-operative dividends; the enfranchisement of women; and co-operative representation in Parliament. The second resolution on the agenda was discussed and accepted as amended, viz. :—

In the event of the Government initiating any scheme of rationing the food of the people, this conference demands at least one-third of the representation on any boards that may be formed for this purpose. Copies of this resolution to be forwarded to the Food Controller and Prime Minister.

It was unanimously agreed—

That this association become affiliated to the Scottish Council of the Workers' Educational Association, and that one guinea be subscribed to its funds.

The third meeting found its venue in the Cowan Institute, under the auspices of Penicuik Society. Mr. G. Peddie was appointed secretary and Messrs. E. Young and J. Clark members of committee. Mr. Rowat (manager, Paisley Provident Society) read a paper on "A Forward Step." A keen discussion followed the reading of the paper, and the following resolution was adopted unanimously :—

This meeting of delegates supports heartily the demands of the Labour members of school boards for a better education to the workers' children, and asks for an increase of the school age, with a maintenance grant for all children between the years of 13 and 16.

The fourth conference was held in the Town Hall, Tranent, under the auspices of the local society. Mr. J. C. Cessford, F.S.A.A., Incorporated Accountant and Public Auditor, read a paper entitled "Looking Forward." The subject was well thought out, and showed the reader's able grasp of finance, both from a national and local standpoint. "Looking forward," he was in favour of a national society, greater depreciations and larger reserves, and a determined attempt being made to have the excess profits duty already paid refunded. But his great objective was the creation of a production fund, out of which capital would be found free of interest to enter into productive enterprises. Still he held that finance, though important, was not everything; we must have vision, and then co-operators would come into their own. A discussion followed, largely of a complimentary nature. The committee's recommendation, that "This association become affiliated to the Land Nationalisation Society," was accepted.

REGULATION FLOUR.

A special conference was held in Picardy Place Hall, Edinburgh, to endeavour to bring about an improvement in the "war bread." Mr. Worling (manager, St. Cuthbert's Bakery Department) introduced the subject in a lucid and technical address, and moved—

That this conference of the East of Scotland Co-operative Conference Association, representing fifteen co-operative societies, with a

combined membership of 91,930, and supplying approximately 400,000 persons with the necessary articles of food, protest most emphatically against the regulations which the Government have made for dealing with flour and bread, the regulations putting serious difficulties in the way of making Scotch bread, owing to the introduction of materials which upset and vitiate fermentation. Further, the regulations are most uneconomical, being productive of a great waste of material both in the unfinished state as dough and in the finished state as bread, which, moreover, in its present state is undoubtedly having a very deleterious effect upon the health of the consumers. We, therefore, demand that the regulations be withdrawn so far as they refer to the adulteration of flour, and the percentage of flour extracted from the wheat.

After this had been seconded, a vigorous discussion followed, taken part in by all the interests concerned, *i.e.*, directors, bakers, managers, and millers.

POLITICAL ACTION.

The Scottish Section having recommended that a defence committee should be formed for this area, and the conference having agreed to a special meeting for this purpose, the said meeting was held in Picardy Place Hall on 15th September. On the motion of Mr. Buchanan (St. Cuthbert's) a central committee was appointed. The committee to consist of eighteen members, each society to have one representative, two from the Conference Committee, and one from the Scottish Section. A discussion took place on the necessity for women being represented on this committee, as the women had now been enfranchised. This was, however, left to the committee, which, when constituted, would co-opt women if thought advisable.

The Central Committee was inaugurated by the Executive on the 13th October, when the following office-bearers were appointed:—Mr. William Nimmo (Armada), president; Mr. J. W. Johnstone (St. Cuthbert's), secretary; Mr. Taylor (Musselburgh and Fisherrow), treasurer.

CO-ORDINATION OF TRANSPORT SERVICES.

This meeting was convened on the authority of the conference after a letter had been received from the Mid-Lothian Food Control Committee, on Saturday, 24th November, in the Bible Societies' Rooms, Edinburgh, with but one exception, all the societies were represented. The president briefly introduced the subject. Mr. Leckie (manager, Penicuik Society), in explaining the position as an advisory member of the Transport Committee, said the scarcity of petrol and horse provender was the cause for this request being made to economise as far as possible their transport services. All the representatives having expressed their views, Mr. D. A. Robertson (Haddington) moved, and Mr. Pagan (Broxburn) seconded—

This meeting recommends that neighbouring societies be requested to arrange mutual boundaries, and consequent exchange of members,

and to report the result to conference secretary on or before the 1st January.

Mr. Turner (Bathgate) moved, and Mr. Thomson (St. Cuthbert's) seconded, an amendment that—

We await developments.

On a division the motion was carried by a majority.

OBITUARY.

In Mr. Peter Glass the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society has lost an able administrator and powerful protagonist; St. Cuthbert's had to mourn the departure of a staunch supporter in Mr. John Welsh; Penicuik had sustained a serious loss in the person of Mr. John Wallace, for many years chairman of the society; and West Calder was bereft of the services of Mr. Charles Thomson, for nine years vice-president of that society.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROPAGANDA WORK.

Special Conference.—This function, which is now well established as an annual one, was held at 92, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh.

The secretary submitted a scheme which included a continuation of many of the old features, and a proposal to inaugurate a Men's Guild in Edinburgh under the name of the East of Scotland Guild. The scheme, after being discussed, was agreed to, Mrs. Patterson suggesting that all the educational committees should unite, so as to make this first guild in the east a success.

Mr. J. Erskine-Scott (Leith Provident Educational Committee) read a noteworthy paper on the "Development of the Young Co-operator," which was well received.

Open-air Meetings.—The National Propaganda Committee offered the services of a speaker for a Saturday afternoon. This was accepted, and meetings were held in Roslin and Loanhead. Mr. E. Young (of the Executive) acted as chairman, and Mr. Andrew Purdie delivered the address. The subject treated was the enormity of the excess profits duty. The second meeting, held later in the evening, had a very large attendance, and the interest evoked was seen in the number of questions asked at the close.

Propaganda Meetings.—This conference has gained a good reputation for their sustained endeavours throughout the area in bringing home to their hearers the need for increased loyalty, the power of associated effort, and the necessity for co-operators being represented on the floor of the House of Commons.

Throughout the year meetings have been held at Dunbar, Armadale, Leith, Penicuik, Broxburn, and Tranent. All these meetings have been addressed by the president and members of committee, and the reception given them by the audiences have been most encouraging.

National Propaganda Meetings.—This committee very generously offered to assist us, providing the means to carry through three district meetings under our supervision. These were held at Newtongrange for Dalkeith, Livingstone Station, and Bathgate, and were addressed by Messrs. A. Young.

W. Williamson, and ex-Councillor Welsh. The president of the conference acted as chairman, and several members of committee, as well as local officials, supplemented with short addresses. The attendances were large and very enthusiastic.

Mass Meetings.—The National Committee having expressed a desire to hold mass meetings in populous districts, this was readily taken up. An augmented committee, consisting of representations of women's guilds and educational committees, along with the Executive, organised a great meeting in March in the Synod Hall, Edinburgh, presided over by the president. A resolution of protest against the inequitable treatment meted out to co-operators was supported by Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald in a stirring speech on "Co-operation: Its Mission and Goal." The resolution was carried unanimously, and general satisfaction was expressed with all the arrangements. Another meeting of the same description was held in Leith in the month of November. Mr. Robert Stewart, J.P. (chairman of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society), delivered a rousing address on the "Development of Co-operation." Here, also, a resolution was submitted.

Juvenile Essay Competition.—This competition, which was open to all societies acting through their educational committees, with the exceptions of St. Cuthbert's and Leith Provident, was carried through with complete success. Mr. Andrew Young, the adjudicator, presented the prizes at the conference held at Prestonpans. These consisted of silver watches to the boys and wristlet watches to the girls.

Educational Agencies.—The desire so frequently expressed by us that all societies should have an educational department is gradually becoming materialised. New committees have been formed since our last report, and we welcomed to membership in the conference one of these, viz., Penicuik Educational Committee.

In addition to the recognised functions generally adopted to carry out educational work, some special efforts have been made. An educational conference was held on the invitation of St. Cuthbert's Educational Committee, at the beginning of the year, when a large gathering was addressed by Dr. Dyer, and a discussion followed, full of good suggestions. Leith Provident Educational Committee invited all the presidents and secretaries of educational committees to partake in a deliberation over various phases of educational activities before the winter's work began. The response was gratifying.

Men's Guild.—In carrying out the proposal that a Men's Guild should be formed for the East of Scotland, an invitation was issued to all those friendly to the policy to attend a meeting. From its composition it was evident, through Leith Provident having formed a guild for themselves, the members would all belong to St. Cuthbert's. This being so, a deputation from the meeting approached St. Cuthbert's Educational Committee, with the happiest results. We have now prosperous guilds in Leith and Edinburgh. But to St. Cuthbert's Men's Guild belongs the honour of being the first of

that denomination to join this association. We would like to see other societies instituting men's guilds.

Women's Guilds.—From all our sources of information these organisations are still forging ahead, and the desire expressed in our last report that every society should have a guild connected with it will soon be realised.

WAGES BOARD.

This functionary body, instituted by the conference, has been doing quiet and good work. Four statutory and three special meetings have been held, and several sub-committee meetings. Wages have been amicably adjusted on a few occasions, and the wages of the dressmaking employees—outside of Edinburgh—have been placed on the same basis all over the area. Organisers of labour have expressed willingness to treat with the Board, and they, along with us, regret that there is not a unanimous opinion in favour of collective action. We hope societies unaffiliated to the Wages Board will reconsider their position and come to a decision in favour of economy.

THANKS.

We take this opportunity of tendering our thanks to the societies who have entertained us, to the committees assisting us in our propaganda work, and to the large number of ladies and gentlemen who gave up so much of their time in organising the mass meetings. We should further acknowledge the cordiality and encouragement given to us in all our comings and goings amongst you.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at 1st January, 1917.....	11	0 1½	By Committee's Expenses	20	13 3
" Bank Interest.....	0	13 1	" Quarterly Conference Meetings..	12	6 0
" Advertisements	6	0 0	" Delegations	26	2 7
" Contributions from Societies, &c. 169	8	11	" Delegate to Lancaster Congress..	13	13 8
" Contributions from Scottish National Propaganda Committee . 99	18	0	" Propaganda Meetings	25	8 5
			" National Propaganda Meetings..	39	18 0
			" Edinburgh Printing Co.	34	18 6
			" Children's Essay Competition....	4	7 0
			" Hall Rent	3	11 6
			" Advertising.....	1	1 4
			" Women's Trades	2	0 0
			" Workers' Educational Committee	1	1 0
			" Railway Nationalisation	0	10 6
			" Convalescent Homes.....	1	15 0
			" Co-operative Veterans' Association	1	1 0
			" Co-operative Union	0	10 0
			" International Alliance	0	12 0
			" Salaries—		
			Chairman	9	0 0
			Committee.....	4	0 0
			Secretary	10	0 0
			" Postage	2	0 0
			Treasurer	4	0 0
			" Postage.....	0	16 0
			Auditors.....	1	0 0
			Balance at 31st December, 1917	12	14 4½
£227 0 1½			£227 0 1½		

Audited—

WM. COLVILLE.

JAMES C. CROSSFORD, F.S.A.A.A.

GEORGE PEDDIE, Secretary.

No. 5.—FALKIRK.

Executive Committee.

Ex-Bailie Loney, J.P. (president),	Mr. H. Rule, B. and G. Baking.
Denny.	„ H. Brock, Grangemouth.
Mr. Robert Newlands (treasurer),	„ G. M'Nair, Stenhousemuir.
Camelon.	„ A. Thompson, Redding.
„ Thomas Johnston (secretary),	„ Jas. M. Primrose, Camelon ; Mr. G.
Falkirk.	Walker, Grahamston (auditors).

Life Members of the Association :

John Liddell (late treasurer). Robert Marshall (late secretary).

Many difficulties have had to be overcome in the management of our affairs during the year.

On all sides we are exhorted to economise in foodstuffs. There is no fear of the co-operative members doing their duty, but while they are doing this it is also the duty of the Government to see that supplies are equitably distributed, and we believe if this were done the shortage cry would almost disappear. With direct representation we have a weapon at our hand to enforce this demand if all co-operators do their duty.

We were honoured by being invited to hold in our area, and under our auspices, the annual Scottish Co-operative Conference. Provost Bogle (Falkirk) gave a civic welcome, and opened a conference which, during its sitting, decided on questions of far-reaching importance to the movement in general. We thank the societies for their liberality, which enabled the Council to entertain their guests in a fitting manner.

As a fitting climax to the propaganda meetings held during 1916, a great co-operative rally was held in Falkirk in March. Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., was the speaker, and a splendid address on "Co-operation" was given. The Council did all in their power to make the meeting a success, and they were rewarded with a bumper house.

An open-air propaganda meeting was held at Slamannan in June, and indoor meetings were held at Linlithgow Bridge and Bonnybridge in December. Councillor Logan (Falkirk) addressed all these meetings. A ready speaker, an enthusiastic co-operator, and a trade union leader, his remarks carried great weight.

Professor Hall also addressed a very enthusiastic meeting in Falkirk in November.

We believe these meetings have had the desired effect by making the rank and file take a keener interest in the co-operative movement. The thanks of the Association are due to the Scottish Section and the Scottish Propaganda Committee for granting us these meetings.

The Association has identified itself with the movement for direct representation in Parliament. A special committee has been appointed and is at work. The grouping of the societies has been a success. As practically the individual society has a direct connection with the Central Committee, this

committee requires financial assistance, and where the rules of the society permit it is hoped that liberal contributions will be made. Those societies whose rules do not permit should see to the immediate alteration, so that they can fall into line with other societies. It is important that the question of direct representation should be taken up seriously, as in the near future it is expected that an election will take place, and co-operators should be in readiness.

The women's guilds and education associations affiliated with us have been doing good work during the winter. Interesting lectures have been given, at which the attendance has been well maintained.

We have held our usual quarterly meetings during the year. The Council's aim has always been to bring forward the most prominent leaders in the movement as speakers, and there has been no exception to this rule during the year. We had Mr. Deans, at Larbert, addressing us on the "Proposed Tax on Co-operative Dividends"; Mr. David Rowat, at Bonnybridge, on "Co-operative Finance, Especially in War Time"; Mr. James Bayne, Alloa, on "Our Aim and How to Attain It"; and Professor Hall, at Camelon, on the "National Policy and Programme." All of these gentlemen went fully into the questions under consideration. The attendance at the conferences has been well maintained, and a feature is the part local delegates are taking in the discussion. The Council have had a large amount of important work to consider, and many meetings have been held during the session.

WAGES BOARD.

At the close of our last report we were negotiating with the A.U.C.E. regarding a demand for an advance of $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on wages paid at 31st December, 1916. Unfortunately, a general agreement could not be arrived at. A majority of the societies were able to arrange with their employees, but Bo'ness, Bonnybridge, Grangemouth, and Slamannan were unable to do so. Grangemouth was the hardest hit, as their employees went out on strike, and work was not resumed until terms were arranged with the A.U.C.E. officials. These terms were in excess of those adopted by the majority of the Wages Board, and formed a basis for negotiations with the A.U.C.E. officials and the Bo'ness, Bonnybridge, and Slamannan societies. These terms compelled these societies to pay a higher rate of wages, which caused much dissatisfaction. This year an endeavour was made to avoid the trouble of the previous year, and we are pleased to say the A.U.C.E. assisted us in doing so. Their demand was considered much too excessive, but, by patient negotiation and a give and take spirit, an amicable settlement was arrived at.

We had also to consider a demand from the Bakers' Union for an advance of 8s. per week, a 48 hours week, and an overtime rate of 1s. 6d. per hour. Matters were more complicated than usual, owing to the bakers having extended their district, and insisting on negotiating with all employers as a body. It was quite obvious from the beginning of the negotiations what was the intention of the bakers. If the advance of 8s. was not granted, then they would come out on strike. As they would not consent to arbitration,

Swansea Congress, the special conference at the very doors of Parliament, and the continual fight of co-operators to secure even an equitable share in the distribution of rationed foodstuffs. The co-operators in the combined counties have found that the stir of the outside world has not been far away from their own doors, and the harassing details of society management are too well known to form the subject of any reference here.

In taking its part in overcoming the ever-accumulating difficulties, the association has not been idle, and a reflex of the times is seen in the formation of a special committee for Parliamentary purposes and in the food distribution protest meeting carried out in conjunction with Labour organisations. So favourably has the inception of a co-operative political fund been received that almost without exception societies in our district have set out to amend their rules to enable them to make contributions. Grimmer and grimmer as the economic struggle has waxed, more earnest and determined have the Fife and Kinross co-operators become to uphold the status of the co-operative movement. The rocks ahead will be more trying still.

In dealing with the affairs intimately connected with our own association, a loss has to be recorded in the resignation of Mr. P. McConnell, J.P., from the office of president—a position he has held for more than thirty years. Such a splendid record of co-operative service could not pass without some special recognition, and at the meeting in May, held at Burntisland, a deputation from the Scottish Wholesale Society's Board presented the retiring president with an illuminated address. At the same meeting, Mr. John King, J.P., the chairman of Cowdenbeath Society, was chosen to succeed Mr. McConnell.

There has been no diminution in effort: the propaganda work has been continued, and meetings have been held at various times to deal with exigencies as they have arisen. In connection with this branch of the work, the association is deeply indebted to the kindness shown to speakers and to the splendid assistance societies have rendered in making for successful and harmonious results.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

The meeting in February was held under the auspices of Dysart Society. Mr. James Allan (Scottish Section) read a paper, "The Position the Co-operative Movement should take in the Reorganisation of Society after the War."

The meeting in May was held at Burntisland, under that society's auspices. The secretary's annual report and statistical statement and treasurer's cash statement were submitted and accepted. More than usual interest was associated with the election of president, as Mr. McConnell was not seeking re-election, the choice of the meeting being bestowed on Mr. John King (Cowdenbeath). Mr. Robert Stewart, J.P. (chairman, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) being deputed by his Board, handed over a beautiful illuminated address to the retiring president.

The meeting in August was held on the invitation of the society at

Buckhaven. Mr. McConnell, delegate to annual Congress held at Swansea, submitted an interesting report of the proceedings at that gathering. A paper on the "Organisation of the Co-operative Vote for Municipal and Parliamentary Purposes" was read by Mr. Geo. Spalding, J.P. (treasurer). As suggested by circular from the Scottish Section, it was agreed to form a special committee to organise the co-operative vote, and the election of same was agreed to on a vote, viz., Messrs. Bolland (Lochgelly), Stewart (Leven Reform), Herd (Dunfermline), Pearson (Kirkcaldy), Mackie (Markinch), and Fotheringham (Kelty).

A motion was submitted and agreed to on behalf of the Burntisland Society calling for inquiry by the authorities into the procedure of the military tribunal in the case of their foreman butcher.

The fourth meeting was held in November, under the auspices of Townhill Society, in the Co-operative Hall. "The National Co-operative Policy," by Professor Hall (Adviser of Studies, Co-operative Union), was read by Mr. Spalding and discussed. A report from the special committee on the organising of the co-operative vote was submitted, and at this meeting a resolution was, by a majority, agreed to that the age of school attendance be increased to sixteen years.

SPECIAL MEETINGS.

In conjunction with the Labour organisations, a large and important meeting was held at Kirkcaldy to protest against the limited representation given to the consumers on Food Control Committees, and suitable resolutions were submitted and agreed to and forwarded to the authorities.

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

Under the auspices of the National Propaganda Committee, meetings have been held at Kirkcaldy, Leven, Cowdenbeath, Kelty, and Lochgelly.

OVERLAPPING.

This question has been, by war conditions, brought permanently under notice, and several meetings have been held by the societies immediately concerned, and at the close of the year this much-debated problem was being approached in a more amicable and hopeful spirit than on any previous occasion.

AUXILIARY BODIES.

Women's Guilds, and also Men's Guilds (of which there are several now in our district), are to be congratulated for spreading and keeping to the front the principles of our movement, and we have pleasure in putting on record again the splendid efforts made by our Women's Guild on behalf of those young men who are offering themselves for the defence of our hearths and homes.

EDUCATIONAL.

The curtailment of railway facilities are almost prohibitive of any combined action on educational work, but local efforts by some of the societies

No. 7.—FORFARSHIRE, PERTHSHIRE, AND ABERDEENSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John Muir (president), Dundee.	Mr. Colin M. Fulton, Dundee.
„ Alfred O'Neil (secretary), Brechin.	„ George Wilson, Aberdeen.
„ D. G. Merchant (treasurer), Monifieth.	„ John Howie, Arbroath.
„ Robert Stewart (statistical secretary), Perth.	„ Wm. M'Gregor, Forfar.
	„ James Taylor, Perth.
	„ David Arkley, Auchterarder.

Auditors: Messrs. David Small and James Wilkie, Dundee;

Mr. Robert Clark (*interim*).

Honorary Member: Mr. George J. Mathews, Perth.

Scottish Section's Representative: Mr. George Bisset, Aberdeen.

As trade and industry in the district have been exceptionally busy, and employment good, all the societies have been enabled to show steady progress. Comparative statistics are misleading just now, but membership has increased, and when the accentuated difficulties of high prices, reduced supplies, lessened efficiency of staffs, rationing, and Government control are considered, and the inequitable treatment suffered at the hands of Government Commissions, especially the Flour Commission, we can truthfully report progress all along the line.

The main business of the usual quarterly conferences is tabulated as under:—

Date.	Place of Meeting.	Subject.	Speaker.	Attendance.
1917. April.	Dundee	Co-operative Progress and Problems.	Robert Stewart, Esq., President, S.C.W.S.	108
July.	Montrose ..	The Social Value of Education.	J. Taggart, Esq., M.A., B.Sc., Rector, Brechin High School.	96
Oct.	Carnoustie .	Formation of Defence Committees.	Messrs. J. Muir (President) and G. Bisset (Scottish Section).	93
1918. Jan.	Perth.....	National Co-operative Policy and Programme.	J. Clark, Esq., Manager, City of Perth Society.	113

At Dundee we were the guests of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, who had that week entered into possession of their latest purchase,

viz., Taybank Jute Mill and Factory, Dundee. Mr. Robert Stewart (president of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) welcomed the delegates, and delivered an eloquent address, in which he touched discreetly upon some of the district's shortcomings and appealed for more loyalty to the Wholesale.

The July conference was again devoted to consideration of education, especially the five-fold resolution carried at Swansea Congress in respect to the proposed Education Bill. We were fortunate, indeed, in securing Mr. Taggart (Rector of Brechin High School) to open the discussion, which he did in a penetrating paper of wide and democratic outlook on "The Social Value of Education." Mr. Muir, the association's delegate to the Swansea Congress, submitted an excellent report of its outstanding characteristics and meaning.

The October conference took up the question of forming a District Defence Committee for local and national political action on lines laid down by the Scottish Section in consultation with representatives of the different conference associations, and which anticipated the Co-operative Union's own plans. Mr. Muir and Mr. Bisset introduced the subject, and it was decided to form such a committee on a separate basis, and as an adjunct to the council of management, it to be representative of local defence committees, with the addition of members from the Council and Scottish Section. Meantime, until the local committees are properly formed, the Council is acting as the District Defence Committee, but it is expected that the new and important committee will soon be organised on the basis laid down.

The Perth conference was of a useful and interesting nature. The "National Co-operative Policy and Programme," as outlined and approved by Swansea Congress, was introduced by Mr. Clark in a sound, practical, common-sense way, in the light of his long experience of co-operative management. The points raised in the paper were well discussed in the light of the present and future, and proved of great value and assistance to committeemen.

Mr. Mathews having retired at the July meeting from the position of president, which he had held for eleven years, in addition to two previous years as statistical secretary, it was decided to present him with a testimonial, in recognition of his valued services to the association and the cause of co-operation generally in the district. The appeal for subscriptions was generously responded to, and at the January conference the presentation took place, taking the form of a handsome bookcase or chiffonier, books, and a cairngorm seal, along with a gold and pearl pendant for Mrs. Mathews. The secretary made the presentation. We were not alone in showing tangible appreciation of Mr. Mathews' worth, as the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society directors associated themselves with us in doing him honour, by presenting him, through Mr. W. R. Allan, with a framed congratulatory address, couched in choice language, and most artistically illuminated and inscribed. Mr. Mathews suitably returned thanks for the gifts, and hoped still to be of assistance in aiding the further progress he desired.

The co-operative movement is represented on the War Emergency Workers' National Committee, and we welcomed the opportunity to associate with the Dundee United Trades and Labour Council and Labour Representation Committee in convening one of their conferences to discuss the then position of the national food supply. This was held in Dundee on 16th June, when 150 different organisations in Fife, Forfar, Perth, and Aberdeen shires were represented—trade unions, co-operative societies, women's guilds, municipalities, &c.

PROPAGANDA.

We have not been idle in this respect. The amalgamation of the scattered forces in Forfar has been taken up strongly by a section of the members of the societies there, and we have assisted to organise the movement. Public meetings have been held under our auspices, as well as those of the National Propaganda Committee and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, to whom we are much indebted. A local joint committee was formed, which drew up a circular showing the benefits to be derived from union, and drafted a resolution suitable for each society's general meeting. At the time of writing, the final decision has not been made by all the societies, but we have every expectation of a partial, if not a complete, amalgamation of the Forfar societies. Propaganda meetings have also been held in Perth, Arbroath, Kirriemuir, and Montrose, all of a successful nature. Montrose committee, as a result, are recommending to their members affiliation with the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Amalgamation continues to exercise the minds of Carnoustie co-operators, and it is hoped they will be able to look beyond the present and join together in one strong society.

Mr. Neil Maclean's work continues to be fruitful, and, through it, a society has been formed in Invergordon, while at several other places only the abnormal war conditions are delaying the establishment of co-operative stores.

EDUCATION.

Our July conference was a stimulus to many of the educational committees, and in Arbroath, Brechin, and Perth a steadily growing body of co-operators is being interested in, and convinced of, the need for education on the lines laid down in the English and Scottish Education Bills, though on some points of administration, such as the areas and mode of election of the authorities, there is room for difference of opinion.

A Men's Guild branch has been started at Auchterarder, and a Women's at Montrose and Torry, to all of which we cordially wish success. The Scottish Central Council of the National Men's Guild has affiliated with us, while we have joined the Dundee and District Branch of the Workers' Educational Association. There are great possibilities in the future, such as a Summer School for the district, through these mutual fraternal unions, and the nucleus of ardent co-operative educationists which exists in several of our societies.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Consequent upon the retiral of Mr. Mathews, several changes have taken place amongst the officials. Mr. John Muir (Dundee) has stepped up to the chair, Mr. Merchant has succeeded Mr. Muir as treasurer, and he in turn has been succeeded by Mr. Robert Stewart (Perth) as statistical secretary. A new departure has been adopted by the election of Mr. Mathews as an honorary member of Council, and we thus retain the benefit of his ripe experience.

Aberdeen Northern Company has been converted into a society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. We welcome the change, which we feel sure will lead to still greater progress in the "Granite City," and appeal to a wider class. We note that the society signal their "conversion" by topping the million of turnover for the year.

THANKS.

We again return sincerest thanks to all, too numerous to mention—the societies under whose auspices we held our meetings, the federation, the Press, and many officials and individuals—who have assisted us in our efforts to fulfil the objects of the association.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance from 1916	16	18 5	By Railway Fares	21	4 4½
„ Subscriptions from Societies, &c.	80	14 4	„ Allowances	6	13 9
„ Advertising	3	12 0	„ Lost Time	5	14 6
„ Investments	2	0 0	„ Council Meetings	3	18 6
„ Bank Interest	1	18 8	„ Postages, Carriages, and Bank		
			Commission	6	11 1
			„ Printing, Stationery, &c.	13	8 7
			„ Delegate to British Congress at		
			Swansea	12	18 6
			„ Montrose Purvey	6	17 0
			„ Subscriptions—		
			Co-operative Convalescent		
			Homes	1	15 0
			International Co-operative		
			Alliance	2	0 0
			Scottish Co-operative Veterans'		
			Association	1	11 0
			„ Allowances—		
			Secretary	4	0 0
			Statistical Secretary	2	0 0
			Treasurer	2	0 0
			„ Investments	2	0 0
			„ Balance—		
			Cash in Bank	6	7 3
			Cash on hand	6	3 10½
	£105	3 5		£105	3 5

T. J. MATHEW'S TESTIMONIAL FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Subscriptions from Societies	18	11 6	By Gifts purchased	18	8 6
			„ Postages	0	3 0
	£18	11 6		£18	11 6

EDUCATION FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1916	12	7	0	By Railway Fares	2	2	1
„ Subscriptions—				„ Lost Time	1	4	0
Aberdeen Northern Company..	8	0	0	„ Allowances.....	2	0	0
Brechin United	3	0	0	„ Printing, &c.	3	7	9
Carnoustie Equitable (Litera- ture).....	0	2	6	„ Postages, &c.	1	6	9
City of Dundee.....	0	10	0	„ College Herald Circle	0	10	6
City of Perth.....	3	3	0	„ Co-operative Reference Library— Dublin	0	5	0
				„ Workers' Educational Association	0	5	0
				„ Hall Rent	1	0	0
				„ Balance—Cash in Bank.....	15	1	5
	£27	2	6		£27	2	6

DEFENCE FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1916	28	16	11	By Railway Fares	7	12	10½
„ Subscriptions—				„ Lost Time	0	8	4½
Aberdeen Northern Company..	5	5	0	„ Allowances.....	4	5	0
Brechin United	0	14	0	„ Printing, &c.	0	7	6
Forfar West Port	0	10	0	„ Postages, &c.	0	1	0
Scottish Section, Co-operative Union	30	0	0	„ Balance—Cash in Bank.....	52	11	2
Audited —							
DAVID SMALL.							
ROBERT CLARK.	£65	5	11		£65	5	11

No. 8.—GLASGOW AND SUBURBS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John M. Biggar (president), Milngavie.	Mr. James Bowie, St. George, Glasgow.
„ Walter Weir (secretary), Govanhill.	„ Robert Greig, Vale of Leven.
„ William Pettigrew (treas.), Glasgow.	„ William Mason, Dalmuir.
„ A.R. Chaddock (statistical secretary), Ibrox.	„ Alex. Strang, Cowlares, Glasgow.
„ Arch. Henderson (auditor), Glasgow.	„ John Richardson, Dumbarton.
Mrs. McFie, Kinning Park, Glasgow.	„ James Russell, St. Rollox, Glasgow
	„ Malcolm Ross, Glasgow Eastern.
	„ Charles Hamilton, Shettleston.

We have again the pleasure of rendering an account of our stewardship for the year. In our report for the last three years we have referred to the world war, which, at the time of writing, shows little sign of abatement, but we express the hope that ere another report is due we will be living at peace with all the world.

Co-operators have had to submit to many hardships during the year in consequence of the state of war, but our movement still grows apace. Indeed, its growth is inflicting sacrifices on the pre-war membership, because they, like good co-operators, are sharing their restricted supplies with those recruits who have recognised their duty and joined their fellow-workers in a cause

which must ultimately knit together the workers of the world and be a great factor in preserving a world-wide brotherhood.

During the year our movement has taken a fateful step in the resolution to take their rightful place in the politics of the nation. The Swansea Congress will long be remembered as making an epoch in co-operative history. That momentous resolution was ratified at the Emergency Conference at London, and a policy for giving it effect was passed there. We, as co-operators, will require to pay for our politics. The old political parties had what they termed their "war chests," contributed to largely by brewers, railway magnates, iron kings, and the like. Co-operators must also have a "war chest," and £2 per 1,000 members is quite inadequate for the purpose. Our Council has every hope that the members in our area will recognise this and cheerfully respond to any appeals which may be made for the sinews that will send many of our members to take their seats in the House of Commons.

EDUCATIONAL WORK BY SOCIETIES.

The usual agencies have been in operation during the year. The men's guild movement continues to grow and bids fair to be of valuable service to societies, and those who have not yet included one would do well to give it a place in their next scheme of work. Children's guilds are also comparatively new, and if committees can find time it would be well spent among the young.

Much of the time and money spent by committees has been devoted to the propagation of the question of Parliamentary representation, and many large meetings have been held in our area, which we hope in due season will yield the desired results.

CLASSES.

We organised a class for boot department employees in the Glasgow Athenæum, with Mr. David Hamilton (Cowlairs) as lecturer. From the point of view of numbers we do not consider it successful, and we feel that if directors of societies would encourage this branch of work it would repay them in improved service to their members. The absence of many of our employees on war service prevented us suggesting anything else in the way of classes.

PROPAGANDA WORK.

We have had a very busy winter, having organised nine meetings—three in conjunction with the National Committee, one in co-operation with the committee of Lennoxton Society, and five on our own. They were held at the following places:—Uddingston, Newton, London Road, Old Kilpatrick, East Kilbride, Alexandria, Dalmuir, Stonefield, Blantyre, and Lennoxton. We provided a concert at all the meetings as an attraction, but we found it difficult to raise enthusiasm at some of them. We are not discouraged, but will go on with our propaganda until we feel we have interested the whole community in our movement. In addition, we addressed many women's guild meetings.

CHILDREN'S RALLY.

The most pleasant task we set ourselves to was the organisation of this meeting, which took place in the City Hall, Glasgow. There were present nearly 4,000 children, drawn from all the Glasgow societies, along with a representation from Clydebank. Mr. James Lucas delivered a short and interesting address, and we were indebted to Kinning Park and St. George societies for the services of their Junior Choir and Pipe Band; and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society provided a cinema show.

Our thanks are due to the educational boards for their valuable help on that memorable night, and we have no doubt that our members will sanction a repetition of this valuable method of propaganda.

CONFERENCES.

We had four quarterly meetings under the auspices of the following societies:—St. George Society, at Partick, where Mr. James O'Grady, M.P., delivered an address on "The Advantage of Direct Co-operative Representation in Parliament." At Clydebank, where we had "An Educational Survey," by Miss Agnes Husband (Dundee). At Dalmuir, where the subject was "Responsibility for Increased Food Prices," introduced by Mr. Thomas Johnston (editor of *Forward*). And at Shettleston, where Mr. W. R. Rae (Sunderland) took for his subject "The Utility of the Work of Educational Committees." In addition to Mr. Rae we had with us Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., who delivered a stirring address on "Parliamentary Policy." There were keen and educative discussions at all the meetings, and the usual routine work was carried out.

We had three special conferences:—On 19th May, we met under the auspices of the United Co-operative Baking Society, and discussed "A Policy for Dealing with the Excess Profits Tax." On 31st August we had a conference of educational committees, where an interchange of opinions took place which proved of much advantage to all societies represented. On 1st September we met for the purpose of electing a committee for our area, who would take charge of all organisation of co-operative electors and selecting candidates to represent us on all public bodies. Twelve societies were elected to send representatives to this committee.

CONCLUSION.

During the year we had our rate of contribution from societies altered from $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per member to 1d. per member per annum, which will enable us to take our quarterly meetings to several places hitherto untouched, and also to undertake propaganda of a more extensive and defensive nature. We thank the societies which have hitherto entertained us, but, of course; the purveying arrangements will now be a charge on the funds of the association, unless on occasions when federated societies invite us. We also tender our thanks to speakers who introduced subjects and all those who contributed to the discussions, thereby helping on the objects of our association.

measure, is due to an ever-increasing membership. This is surely an indication that we are still gaining ground; and, to a large extent, our success may be attributed to the fact that the movement has not taken the advantage of the public which the private traders have done in the matter of profiteering. It is, therefore, encouraging to find that, notwithstanding all our difficulties, we are still gaining ground, and our methods are commended in high places. and our organising system is appreciated because of the economic advantages accruing therefrom.

CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

The quarterly conference, or what may be termed the annual meeting, was held in February, under the auspices of the Laundry Association, at Barrhead. The return of Messrs. Paton and Muir, as statistical secretary and treasurer respectively, has become an annual event, with no opposition, so well satisfied are the members with the services rendered. The most important part of the meeting was undoubtedly the appearance of Professor Hall (Adviser of Studies) to advocate the "Accumulation and Employment of Co-operative Capital." A most encouraging and instructive discussion followed, taken part in by many delegates, and replied to very ably and fully by Professor Hall.

The second meeting was held in Renfrew Town Hall, under the auspices of the Renfrew Equitable Society. This meeting was made notable from the fact that our old president, Mr. John Dewar, was honoured by the Board of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society presenting him with an illuminated address for his long and valued services to the movement. Mr. Donaldson, of Renfrew, gave an address on "Co-operation and War," which covered a very wide field, and traced co-operation from the beginning of all things. It was also agreed at this meeting to petition the Home Secretary for the release of Mr. John Maclean, M.A.

The third meeting was held in the Glen Halls, Neilston, on the kind invitation of the Barrhead Society. It was again unanimously agreed that Mr. William Steel should be president of the Conference Association, although still absent on military duties. Mr. John Downie (Wishaw) gave an address on "Co-operative and Non-co-operative Trading"—an address which, it may be said, bristled with good points, all in favour of our system of trading. It was agreed at this meeting that a special conference be called to consider the setting up of a defence committee. This was considered necessary, as the societies had not had sufficient time to consider the proposals, which might be very far-reaching in their effect on the co-operative movement.

The November meeting was held, as usual, under the auspices of the four Paisley societies, where the conference is assured of a hearty welcome annually. Mr. David Mason (Paisley Provident) read a very instructive and able paper on "Co-operation, Education, and Industrial Democracy." Mr. A. M. Fraser was re-elected auditor, and the present occupants were nominated once more as statistical secretary and treasurer. Mr. J. M. Wilkie was again recommended as the representative of Renfrewshire area on the Scottish Section. A representative from Pollokshaws Society gave the reasons

which had induced his society to sever their connection with the Renfrewshire Conference and seek admission to the Glasgow and Suburbs Conference. Regret was expressed at the necessity for this action on the part of the Pollokshaws Society, but it was recognised that we must adapt ourselves to circumstances.

A feature of the past twelve months has been the conclusion arrived at by the leaders of the movement that, to protect ourselves, we must take an active part in political propaganda. The decision arrived at may have far-reaching consequences, which only the future can unfold. And so, as a result of the decision arrived at by last Congress, we have been requested by the Scottish Section to form defence committees within our area, under the guidance of a Central Defence Committee, elected at the conference special meeting. This meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall, Bank Street, Paisley, and was attended by 132 delegates. After discussion, it was agreed that a Central Defence Committee be formed under the scheme suggested by the Scottish Section, to consist of one member of the Sectional Board, two members of the Conference Committee, one member from Paisley Burgh, one member from Greenock Burgh, two members from Renfrewshire East, and two members from Renfrewshire West. We look for a great step forward under our new organisation, and it is certain they have a great, difficult, and arduous task before them to organise and conduct a great campaign for the political representation of the movement.

WAGES BOARD.

We are sorry to have to record that this body was disbanded, at a special meeting of the societies to consider the question. It was fully considered and discussed, and the decision arrived at was in consequence of the limited scope of action the Board possesses, the majority thinking no good purpose would be served continuing under such restricted conditions as existed.

THE GUILDS.

The women's guilds throughout our area continue to flourish and increase in membership. Their usefulness will now be further increased by the new Reform Act which has become law, which gives women the political franchise. A great propaganda within the women's guild should take place at once, so that the women within the movement may realise the great opportunities that have now become theirs. The men's guilds are not catching on as they deserve to do. We believe the abnormal conditions have a great deal to do with the want of attendance at these meetings, which are continued by the enthusiasm of the few who have the good of the movement and this particular branch very much at heart.

In conclusion, we may express the sincere hope that the year we have now entered may see the end of the hostilities we are engaged upon. In the days to come, we are convinced the great movement of which we form a part will play a great part in the reorganisation of society. More and more will it become apparent that only by methods of co-operation in every phase of life can we succeed to the realisation of the great co-operative ideal—the Brotherhood of Man.

While the commercial aspect of local co-operation can speak for itself, as exemplified in the annual statement, we are pleased to say that the nobler work of education has not been neglected. Never, in our local history of eighty years, has there been more activity in connection with co-operation than is to be found at present. Educational and propaganda work can accomplish much, and those responsible for this branch fully realise the need of such work. The results of these activities we wait for with patience and confidence.

During the year our association has practically pursued the policy of previous years. The holding of our regular conferences and the consideration of all matters of interest to the movement have fully occupied our time and enthusiasm. Like other districts, we have formed during the year a defence committee, and for that Board we can all agree there is plenty of scope for their energies, as well as an abundance of useful work to accomplish. Much of the success of our defence committee depends on the average member of societies, while other localities can look after themselves. We hope and appeal for the support of those in our own district in seconding the efforts of our own committees, as this is the sure way of gaining efficient and satisfactory results for any labour expended.

The first quarterly meeting for the year was held under the auspices of Dunfermline Society, at which Professor Hall delivered a sound and eloquent address on "Current Co-operative Topics." The address was well received, and produced a complimentary discussion.

The second quarterly conference was again held in a cathedral town—viz., Dunblane—where Mr. D. Rowatt (Paisley) read a practical and interesting paper entitled "Regeneration." The paper dealt with, principally, co-operative finance and production, and a good discussion followed. It was agreed at this meeting that as long as the present inadequate railway facilities existed all our quarterly conferences should be held in Alloa, consequently the next two conferences for the year were held there.

At the third meeting we had the pleasure of hearing Scotland's veteran, in the person of Mr. James Deans, read a paper on the very important subject, viz., "The Organisation of the Co-operative Political Vote." An interesting discussion followed, most of the remarks being of a complimentary and appreciative nature.

The fourth meeting was held on the 24th November, and the delegates present were entertained to an appreciative paper by Mr. James Bayne (Alloa). The subject, which embraced part of our national programme, dealt with the important phases of co-operation, such as capital, open membership, depreciation, and reserves. The discussion which followed was of an interesting nature, and the paper and discussion reflected credit and ability on those concerned.

During the year the Conference Committee have met at least once a month, when various matters concerning the movement have been discussed and reported, either through the minutes or at quarterly conferences. Several

meetings have also been held of the Wages Board, at which delicate matters have been considered, so far satisfactorily.

The few meetings held to date of the Defence Committee have been, to a large extent, somewhat formal; it is very apparent, meantime, that plenty of work is in store for this body, and it is pleasing to record that all our societies are giving the committee every support and encouragement. With this unity existing it is safe, meantime, to say that satisfactory results should be the outcome.

To the various societies visited during the year our warmest thanks are due for the kindly and enthusiastic reception that has been extended to both delegates and committee, and we can assure these societies that their hospitality and genuine friendliness has been greatly appreciated, and reflects a social feeling not encountered every day.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last Report.....	94	15	2½
" Wholesale Society	10	0	0
" Co-operative Union	8	0	0
" Subscriptions from Societies	71	16	9
" Advertising.....	3	8	0
" Interest from Bannockburn Society	2	17	10
Audited— THOMAS JINKS.			
	<u>£185</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9½</u>
Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By President, £1; Secretary, £5; Treasurer, £4	10	0	0
" Committee's Allowances and Ex- penses	18	12	6
" Delegates and Delegations	24	0	11
" Auditor's Fee	0	10	6
" Readers of Papers	4	5	0
" Printing Annual Reports	4	0	0
" Printing and Advertising	3	16	6
" Veterans' Association	2	0	0
" Scottish Council for Women's Trades.....	0	10	0
" International Alliance	0	12	0
" Purveying Teas at Conferences..	16	0	0
" Musical Association	0	10	0
" Leaflets and Educator	0	14	9
" Secretary's Postages, &c.....	2	10	0
" Treasurer's Postages and Bank Commission	1	1	6½
" Belgian Refugees.....	2	0	0
" Cash in Bannockburn Society ..	80	0	0
" Cash in Treasurer's hands	14	9	1
	<u>£185</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9½</u>

WILLIAM M'ISAAC, Secretary.

(6) SOUTHERN SECTION.

The Board held sixteen meetings during the year, of which eleven were ordinary and five special.

The attendances of the members of the Board were as follows:—

	Possible.	Actual.	Absent.	Sick.
Mr. J. H. Bate	12	.. 12	.. —	.. —
Mr. W. T. Charter	16	.. 13	.. *3	.. —
Mr. M. H. Clear	16	.. 15	.. —	.. 1
Mr. S. Foulger	16	.. 15	.. —	.. 1
Mrs. M. A. Gasson	16	.. 16	.. —	.. —
Mr. A. Hainsworth.....	16	.. 14	.. *2	.. —
Mr. E. King	16	.. 16	.. —	.. —
Mr. R. Rowsell.....	16	.. 15	.. *1	.. —
Mr. W. J. Salmon	16	.. 14	.. —	.. 2

* On business connected with the Board..

The following appointments were made at the first meeting of the Board held 13th June, 1917:—

Chairman Mr. W. T. Charter.

Sectional Executive Mrs. M. A. Gasson, Messrs. W. T. Charter, M. H. Clear, S. Foulger, and E. King.

Boundaries Committee .. The members composing the Executive.

To Deal with Production .. Messrs. E. King and W. J. Salmon.

Representatives to the—

United Board..... Messrs. W. T. Charter and R. Rowsell.

Office Committee Mr. W. T. Charter.

Central Education Committee Mr. A. Hainsworth.

Southern Education Association Messrs. J. H. Bate and W. J. Salmon.

Southern Choral Association Mrs. M. A. Gasson and Mr. A. Hainsworth.

Progress in the section has been well maintained, and the following figures show that when the statistics for the complete year 1917 are published they will reveal another great step forward. Inquiries have been made of the societies as to the number of members at the end of 1917 and the turnover for the year. One hundred and thirty-five societies have replied, and the following figures may be taken as approximately correct:—

DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	Members.		Sales.		Share Capital.	
		1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.
N. Metropolitan.	15	115,470	130,417	2,759,340	3,100,234	958,483	1,039,461
S. Metropolitan.	9	78,127	87,294	2,132,709	2,418,472	864,136	908,787
Kent	15	40,867	44,709	1,286,447	1,445,542	448,244	479,287
Sussex	8	14,915	16,145	334,243	391,730	127,830	141,294
Hants.	12	35,251	39,454	861,816	1,014,567	306,184	328,088
Wilts. & Dorset.	9	15,473	17,268	401,325	471,999	134,176	148,670
Oxford.	11	33,673	36,343	828,047	992,081	335,860	464,904
Cambridge	12	14,641	15,801	318,946	371,963	109,080	122,700
Norfolk.	13	24,615	26,163	681,253	763,159	200,193	216,640
Essex & Suffolk.	14	39,674	42,761	1,154,859	1,306,898	418,039	461,230
Beds. & Bucks..	13	17,740	19,267	487,207	589,020	197,207	215,992
Productive Societies	131 4	430,446 288	475,622 309	11,246,192 45,508	12,865,665 54,576	4,099,432 4,200	4,527,053 5,532
TOTAL ...	135	430,734	475,931	11,291,700	12,920,241	4,103,632	4,532,585

The figures show an increase of 45,197 members, £1,628,541 in sales, and £428,953 in share capital. A number of societies failed to reply. Should the figures be a true indication of what has transpired in all the societies in the section we may look for a total increase of close upon 50,000 members and two millions of sales.

This progress has taken place in spite of the adverse conditions which have been so trying to management committees and officials generally. Some of the latter have despaired almost to the point of retiring from positions which were more conspicuous for criticism than thanks. It may be pointed out here, for the benefit of those who have not yet done so, that such committees as have called their members together to fully explain the difficult circumstances in which they are placed have almost invariably succeeded in reducing the dissatisfaction, based on lack of knowledge, which has found expression.

SECTIONAL CONFERENCES.

Conferences have been held during the year as follows:—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
1917.			
28th April .	London	Sectional Annual Report.	Members of the Board.
19th May..	Norwich ...	Sectional Annual Report.	Members of the Board
6th Oct. ..	London	National Co-operative Policy and Programme.	Members of the Board.
17th Nov. .	London	Direct Representation.	Members of the Board.
9th Feb.	London	Food Problems.	Messrs. H. J. May and W. C. Anderson, M.P.

The first two conferences, which dealt with the Sectional Board's Annual Report, were well attended. The report provoked a gratifying amount of discussion, and the result appeared to be a reawakened interest in the work of the Co-operative Union, which was the object sought.

The Survey Committee's report on "The National Policy and Programme" also drew a good attendance on 6th October. The points which attracted most discussion were those relating to the future developments of the Wholesale Societies and their action with regard to strengthening the hold of the movement upon productive enterprise.

"Direct Representation" was responsible for a very lively and animated conference. It was held within a month of the National Emergency Conference at the Central Hall, London, and showed that the energy evoked by that meeting had not by any means subsided. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

That this conference approves of the draft schemes of organisation for securing co-operative representation in Parliament and on local, municipal, and administrative bodies, and urges upon our societies the necessity of putting them into operation at the earliest possible moment in preparation for any eventualities.

On 9th February, the largest gathering of the session was drawn together to demand a National scheme of food rations and further powers for consumers' representatives. The two following resolutions were unanimously carried, and afterwards forwarded to the Prime Minister, Lord Rhondda, Mr. R. Prothero, and Mr. J. R. Clynes:—

That this conference of representatives of co-operative societies and other organisations in the Southern Sectional area of the Co-operative Union demands that the Ministry of Food put in force immediately a National compulsory system of rationing of essential foodstuffs for the purpose of securing an equitable distribution thereof amongst all classes of the community.

That this conference condemns the general policy of the Government with respect to food supplies, and demands the adoption of measures that will give to consumers' representatives an effective share of power to regulate prices in such manner as will abolish opportunities to make exorbitant profits.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF CO-OPERATORS.

A circular letter was issued to societies in December, 1917, asking for replies to the following questions:—

- (a) Do your society's rules need amendment to give authority to subscribe to the Central Parliamentary Fund?
- (b) Have your members agreed to subscribe to the Central Fund?
- (c) Is your local electoral council formed?

Replies were received from 106 societies, from which it appeared that in 24 cases the rules needed amendment; 50 societies had already agreed to contribute

to the fund, and 15 were preparing to consider the matter at forthcoming meetings; whilst 16 societies had formed local councils and 18 had the matter under consideration.

A number of societies asked for a member of the Board to be present at their meetings when the matter was up for consideration, and much useful work has been done.

The Board has advised societies to refrain from affiliating to any other party, but rather to establish firmly their own local councils, in order to be in a position to negotiate on equal terms with other organisations having similar aims. In several cases their advice has been the means of preventing alliances that might have been the cause of divisions in the movement. Experience has already shown that attempts to affiliate with any other bodies may provoke reprisals of a nature which should not be sought.

CO-OPERATION IN LONDON.

The problems of organisation and propaganda in the London area call urgently for solution that will unify and emphasise the work of the committees of various kinds now in existence. The Sectional Board, considering that the starting point of any new movement to intensify co-operative work in London should be consultation with the management committees, invited each such committee in London to confer with them on the subject. Afterwards a conference was held at which educational committees and guilds were represented. The following suggestions were received with general consent:—

1. That the two London District Associations should be formed into what may be called "The Combined North and South Metropolitan District Associations." Under this title it would be possible to form an official executive committee of fifteen elected persons and a secretary.

2. That a London Propaganda Council should be formed, consisting of one representative from the various organisations connected with each society, viz. one from the management committee, one from the united education committees, one from the united women's guilds, and one from the united men's guilds; in addition, one from the Southern Education Association.

3. That the official executive committee form part of the council.

4. That the executive committee should be elected according to the rules governing the election of Co-operative Union District Executives. The committees which obtain representation on the executive committee shall not be entitled to any further representation on the propaganda council.

5. That a permanent secretary should be appointed, who would act in that capacity for both propaganda council and executive council. An application would be made to the Co-operative Union for a grant to cover the necessary salaries and expenses.

The proposal, with slight modifications, has received the approval of the United Board, the Joint Propaganda Committee, and the C.W.S. Directors.

ORGANISATION OF ALLOTMENT HOLDERS.

A joint conference of the Sectional Board with representatives of the London distributive societies and the Vacant Land Cultivation Society was held on Saturday, 23rd June, when certain proposals were made which would have the effect of placing groups of allotment holders, through the local distributive societies, in contact with the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Agricultural Department.

On Saturday, 14th July, at a further conference, at which the Co-operative Wholesale Society was represented, the following scheme was adopted:—Local group secretaries of allotment holders to send detailed group orders to the Vacant Land Cultivation Society. The Vacant Land Cultivation Society to check and pass them on to local retail co-operative societies in the various districts, local retail co-operative societies to forward bulk orders to the Co-operative Wholesale Society. The local retail co-operative societies to send accounts to the Vacant Land Cultivation Society, who will attend to collection and pay accounts. The Co-operative Wholesale Society to deliver to allotment holders' group secretaries.

The London co-operative societies agreed to open special sales sections to deal with bulked orders transmitted on the plan outlined above at a mere nominal charge over the wholesale price, but any goods purchased by allotment holders at the stores in the ordinary way will bear the usual charges.

This scheme has since been adopted by a number of societies outside the London area. Altogether, trade to the value of £300 to £400 has been transacted. It is hoped that this figure may be much enlarged next year.

DISTRICT HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS.

The object of these boards, which were established by resolutions of Congress, are, by conciliatory means, to use influence to avert stoppages, prevent disputes, to put an end to any stoppage or dispute that may arise, or to settle any difference arising in any society as to the rates (other than Congress rates and those governed by Trades Boards Acts, or other Acts of Parliament), regulations, customs, and conditions of employment prevailing, or to prevail, in any society, which may be submitted to the board either by societies or employes' organisations concerned in the district.

It was decided that each society in a district association should have the right to be represented, and that there should be one representative of the district executive and the sectional board on each. As a result of nominations received the district boards now comprise the following number of representatives: North Metropolitan, 8; South Metropolitan, 6; Kent, 10; Sussex, 7; Hants., 6; Wilts. and Dorset, 4; Oxford, 8; Cambridge, 7; Norfolk, 10; Essex and Suffolk, 6; Beds. and Bucks., 13. Societies not represented may still send in nominations.

In case of any dispute arising in any district respecting hours and wages the society affected would have the right to call upon the district board for advice and assistance. The collective knowledge of local conditions thus brought together should tend to secure decisions of an equitable nature.

INCOME TAX MENACE.

A vigorous propaganda to awaken the active interest of societies was carried on for the purpose of defeating the designs of private traders and other people with respect to imposing Income Tax on the surpluses of co-operative societies. At the request of the Board the Districts called together joint meetings of from two to six different societies, when the case for the co-operative movement was fully discussed in each instance. The district secretaries' reports this year show how successful this method of propaganda has been. Many members of Parliament have been interviewed, and they have generally expressed surprise that the co-operative case is so strong. A number went so far as to promise their direct support if the matter ever came before the House.

DISTRICT ORGANISATION.

All the secretaries report progress, though the conditions during the past year have not been so favourable to expansion as in times past. There is no doubt, however, that co-operation has thoroughly maintained its hold in each district, as may be ascertained from the district reports appended.

Proposals have been put forward for combining the work of the two Metropolitan districts, and are more fully dealt with under the heading "Co-operation in London."

The district secretaries met the Sectional Board on 28th July, 1917. The subject for discussion was the "National Policy and Programme" approved by Congress, which provides a definite objective for co-operative effort that had been long wanted. Attention was particularly drawn to such points as capital, depreciation, minimum wages, trade and loyalty, business efficiency, insurance and banking, education, income tax menace, and "after the war" problems. Special consideration was given to the questions of banking and insurance. It was suggested that the Co-operative Wholesale Society should assign agencies to retail societies for the purpose of accepting trade union banking accounts and opening up insurance business.

NEW SOCIETIES.

Kingston-on-Thames.—A society of several hundred members has been registered at Kingston-on-Thames, and already has banked over £300 with the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Business will commence when a favourable opportunity presents itself.

Sturminster Newton.—The Sturminster Newton Farmers' Limited, a dairy society, proposed to open a retail distributive branch. They were advised to establish a new society rather than incur the danger of mixing two distinct businesses. The advice was accepted, and a society of 300 members was established, beginning with a trade of £100 per week.

Iwerne Minster.—Help was requested for the formation of a society in this Wiltshire town. The inquirers were advised to become affiliated to the Childe Okeford Society, which opened a branch, and business appears to be progressing favourably.

Rye, Sussex.—At this town a crowded meeting adopted a resolution in favour

of establishing a co-operative society. The secretary of the Ashford Society is kindly maintaining touch with the committee on behalf of the Sectional Board. Over £200 share capital was subscribed at the first two meetings.

NEW MEMBER OF UNION.

The society at Leighton Buzzard, which has been established many years, has joined the Union.

DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY.

The Medway Barge Builders' Society had for some time found a difficulty in obtaining sufficient remunerative business to warrant existence as a separate concern. They have therefore disposed of the business to a Grimsby concern at a price which enabled them to liquidate all their engagements satisfactorily.

BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS.

Further progress is to be noted in this matter. Boundaries have been agreed upon between the Chesham and Tring societies, and the Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead societies. The disputes between the Basingstoke and Aldershot, and Basingstoke and Farnham societies are still outstanding. The Sectional Board is anxious that these societies should come to an agreement at an early date, but so far have been unsuccessful in securing a suitable arrangement. The longer this arrangement is delayed the more danger arises of friction in the future.

EDUCATION COMMITTEES.

The Board, in conjunction with the Southern Education Council, is anxious to assist in establishing education committees in connection with all societies in the section. At present some 70 are so organised out of 190 societies. A circular letter has been issued, but the response has been meagre. The Sectional Board take this opportunity of once more drawing societies' attention to the value of the work of active educational committees.

CO-OPERATIVE SCHOOLS.

A summer school was held at the Working Men's College during the first two weeks in September, 1917, and was largely attended. The schools in London having been so successful it is felt that a summer school at a college where the students can be in residence throughout the whole of the time would be welcomed. Negotiations have been concluded by the Central Education Committee with the proprietor of a suitable college at Maidenhead, and, if war conditions permit, the school will be held at the end of the summer.

Week-end schools organised by the Stratford Education Committee have proved successful and educative.

In conjunction with the local society the Sectional Board organised a week-end school at Winchester. Results were sufficiently good to show that under better conditions much good work could be done if a number of such schools were organised.

LITERATURE AND LANTERN SLIDES.

Eight applications for the loan of lantern slides have been received, accounting for 560 slides. This is a reduction on previous years, due, no doubt, to war conditions militating against the organisation of meetings.

Literature sales amounted to £51. 3s. 6d., showing a further increase on the year. There is a pretty constant demand for new co-operative literature, and the Publications Committee should feel encouraged to go forward as quickly as the dearth of paper and cost of printing will permit.

OBITUARY.

We regret to record the death of Mr. E. J. Curtis, a member of the Colchester Committee, who was accidentally killed in a street car collision; and of Mr. W. Collins, of the West London Committee. Mr. Collins was very well known in the Southern Section, and was a regular attendant at conferences. Letters of condolence were sent to Mrs. Curtis and Mrs. Collins.

GENERAL.

The thanks of the Board are due to the district secretaries and executives for the painstaking manner in which their duties have been carried on. A word of gratitude is also due to the educational committees which have so gamely stuck to their tasks.

The men's and women's guilds have pursued their activities, the number of branches of men's guilds having increased. Classes for women have been organised by the Central Education Committee in connection with the women's guilds at Enfield, Edmonton, Penge, Aldershot, West London, Portsmouth, Woking, and Farnham, the attendance being good in all cases.

Of the management committees and their officials only words of admiration can be used for the sterling co-operative service they perform for members. With such a spirit to meet difficulties they may look forward with equanimity to the times coming after the war, whether they be good or ill.

W. T. CHARTER, Chairman.

B. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

THE SOUTHERN CO-OPERATIVE CONVALESCENT FUND.

Although the Convalescent Fund still shows signs of the influence of the abnormal conditions of the times upon its activities, the progress made and the work done during the year is most satisfactory. Seven societies—Aldershot (rejoined), Beccles, Great Yarmouth, Diss, King's Lynn, Melton Constable, and Tiptree Self-Help—have joined up, and the total number of members is now 101.

Subscriptions and donations for the year ending 31st December, 1917, amounted to £1,197. 18s. 2d., showing an increase of £113. 5s. 11d. Grants were made to 52 societies in respect of 225 convalescent and tuberculous cases, and to 10 societies in respect of 26 grants for surgical aid and dental benefits.

The committee express themselves somewhat disappointed that the demand for these new forms of benefit has not been greater. The machinery of the scheme has worked well, and the grants made have been much appreciated by applicants.

The total number of cases in which grants were made were 225, being 83 men, 116 women, and 26 children. Ordinary cases, requiring under three weeks' benefit, numbered 149, and cost £2. 0s. 10d. per case; but the number of more serious cases accepted, in which, at the discretion of the committee, a much longer stay was granted to completely restore the convalescent to health, have increased this year from 56 to 61, the average cost per case being £5. 0s. 6½d., as against £4. 12s. in 1916.

Twelve tuberculous cases were accepted by the committee, each one requiring lengthy treatment either at Sanatoria or in our own shelter. The average stay was 16 weeks, and the net average cost was £15. 5s. 6d. per case.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTH METROPOLITAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. A. C. Burn (chairman), West London.	Mr. J. Maton, Edmonton.
„ F. P. Haywood (hon. sec.), London Perseverance.	„ S. Moule, Stratford.
„ H. H. Betts, Willesden.	„ W. G. Payne, Chesham.
„ E. Irwin, Croxley.	„ G. H. Pightling, Epping.
	„ A. Wiggins, Watford.
	„ R. J. Wise, Hendon.

During Congress year four conferences have been held, as follows :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Stratford	Income Tax.....	Mr. W. T. Charter.
Willesden & District..	Co-operation and Food Control....	Mr. A. Hollands.
West London.....	The Representation of Co-operators in Parliament.	Mr. S. Foulger.
Stratford (Waltham-stow Branch).	Co-operative Representation, National and Local.	Mrs. M. A. Gasson.

Great interest has been focussed by societies on the subjects selected for discussion, particularly the question of "Income Tax."

The conferences have been well attended, and the discussions most profitable.

Meetings were held at Willesden and Watford by representatives of general committees, along with a member of the Sectional Board and the district secretary, to arrange deputations to local members of Parliament on the proposal to levy income tax on co-operative societies.

The committee assisted the Hendon Society at their propaganda meeting at the Garden Suburb, which was a great success.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties of obtaining supplies, the whole of the societies in the district report progress, both in trade and membership, which clearly shows that the workers are beginning to realise the value of co-operation.

The district executive has been increased by two members, one from Hendon Society and one from Croxley Society, which has enabled the committee to keep in closer touch with societies.

We were again represented at Congress.

The following is the expenditure for the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	10	17	10
Deputations, &c.	1	12	1
Printing and Stationery	1	10	8
Postage, &c.	1	17	2
	<hr/>		
	£15	17	9

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward	11	8 5	By Delegate's Expenses	0	5 0
„ Edmonton	1	1 0	„ Grant, towards Delegate's Ex-		
„ Hendon	1	1 0	penses to Congress	3	0 0
„ Stratford	4	4 0	„ Co-opt members of Committee—		
			Fees	0	8 8
			„ Delegate's Expenses to National		
			Emergency Conference	1	0 0
			„ Printing Paper for District Con-		
			ference, Willesden	2	5 0
			„ Balance in hand	10	15 9
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	£17	14 5		£17	14 5

F. P. HAYWOOD, Hon. Secretary.

No. 2.—SOUTH METROPOLITAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. S. Whitbourne (chairman), Woking.	Mr. W. Harding, Penge.
„ J. Dickinson (secretary), Royal Arsenal.	„ C. J. Pettett, Godalming.
„ C. J. Beese, Staines.	„ W. Stewart, Croydon.
	„ R. R. Wale, Woolwich.

During the year conferences have been held as follows :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Haslemere	Co-operation and Direct Representation in Parliament.	Mr. E. King.
Penge	Co-operation and Direct Representation in Parliament.	Mr. J. Dickinson.
Bromley & Crays.	Co-operative Failures: The Remedy, Amalgamation or Federation.	Mr. Frank Bethell.

Two out of the three conferences have dealt with the subject of Parliamentary Representation, and the unanimous opinion of delegates has been in favour of the movement taking its part in political life. If the members of societies are of the same frame of mind as the delegates to conferences there would appear to be very little risk of dissension in this district.

Whilst the trading activities of societies have been restricted and the extension of business premises practically prohibited owing to the war conditions, it is yet satisfactory to note that societies are able to report increases in membership and trade.

Educational work is being vigorously carried on in most of the societies, and the value of the co-operative movement, both in peace and war, is being kept before the general public.

Now that compulsory rationing of certain goods is in force, it is a matter for congratulation that the co-operative movement in this, as in other matters, has led the way. Whilst Government Departments were talking about rationing co-operative societies were doing it. In this district the Woolwich Society took a census of its members and instituted a food register months before the Government moved in the matter. This system has aroused considerable interest, and inquiries have been made for details from societies, Labour organisations, and food control committees throughout Great Britain.

The societies throughout the district are fully alive to the menace to the movement from private interests, and are determined to put up a stiff fight, if needs be, on behalf of co-operation.

The negotiations mentioned in the last report as being carried on between the Penge, Bromley and Crays, Croydon, and Woolwich societies with a view to rearrangement of boundaries and amalgamation of some of the societies are not yet completed, owing to the continuance of the war.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	9	3	5
Deputations	0	18	1
Printing and Stationery	1	14	4
Postage	0	19	9
	£12	15	7

J. DICKINSON, Hon. Secretary.

No. 3.—KENT.

Executive Committee.

Mr. D. Flemming (chairman), Chatham.	Mr. J. Gill, Gillingham.
„ M. H. Clear (secretary), Sheerness.	„ J. H. Clunne, Gravesend.
„ T. R. Claringbould, Dover.	„ J. C. Harlow, Sittingbourne.
„ G. Wood, Sheerness Co-operative.	„ J. T. Cashman, Faversham.
„ T. Hoole, Canterbury.	„ H. J. V. Wildash, Greenstreet.
„ W. Angear, Sheerness Economical.	„ J. Norris, Ramsgate.
„ Fielder, Rochester.	„ H. Hughes, Rainham.
„ A. D. Banks, Ashford.	„ R. Werren, Tonbridge.
„ G. Mitchell, Maidstone.	„ A. J. Curling, Barge Builders.
„ H. Riches, Dartford.	„ Spillett, Walmer.

1917 CONFERENCES.

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Rochester	Direct Parliamentary Representation	Mr. W. Fielder.
Chatham	Water Transport (General Committees only).	Mr. W. Coulton.
Ashford	Co-operators and their National Programme.	Mrs. Gasson (Co-op. Union).
Gravesend	The Scheme for Parliamentary Representation.	Mr. E. King (Co-op. Union).

The whole of the conferences have had pre-war standard of attendances and the keenest of interest shown in the subject matter, and if only the enthusiasm can be carried back to the delegates' spheres of life a great awakening is the sure and certain reward.

The committee meetings have not maintained their pre-war level, perhaps due to the fact that they are held at 6 p.m. and the representatives find it difficult returning by late and last trains.

The passing away of the Barge Builders and Carriers' Society Limited, at Rochester, is an event, in these days, to be regretted. Water carriage is of the utmost importance, and this society's building and repairing of barge craft had an influence on wages, hours, and conditions of labour on the River Medway area.

Established in 1892, from its inception dearth of capital hampered progress. Then the wreck of a first-class barge was a blow that the society never recovered from. The present great demand for all kinds of vessels was the opportunity to save the position of affairs. The society approached the Co-operative Wholesale Society, but negotiations did not effect a transfer, the offer of a private shipbuilding company being 25 per cent more than the Co-operative Wholesale Society. In the interest of the shareholders and those of strong co-operative faith the society is being wound up and business and plant transferred to the capitalistic world.

The closing down of this productive venture is counter-balanced by societies entering upon farming operations. At Ashford they have purchased a fully-equipped farmstead, and will produce their own milk requirements.

Sittingbourne Society has added many hundreds of acres to its previous holdings; varied will be the future. Sheerness Economical continues to jog along with general farming, dairy, market-garden produce, wheat, &c. The glasshouses are a reliable source of food production, and a ready market within its own membership is found.

The majority of the societies' rules will permit of backing up Parliamentary funds, and every single society which is at present debarred is taking prompt steps to make good this defect. A few are at work setting up local committees, and here and there one has established a local organisation. They are urged to build and construct step by step. First try for local bodies, then the county, and finally Parliament. It is thought this method of educationally working for the primary object the better plan.

The question of boundaries between two societies has demanded the aid of the Special Sub-district Committee, and though at the present stage the task is not completed there is every reason to believe a successful termination will attend time and labour given to the solution.

In one town a body of people are at work establishing a new society. Opposition is rife, and the promoters are being boycotted. Supplies are cut off by private traders. These, however, are being catered for by a society some fifteen miles distant, which is also taking the share capital until the new society is registered and ready to start. Faith and courage are strong factors in the fray.

Developments await peace times. Every possible step has been taken to cope with expansion, but it is far too limited in character for the far-sighted. These, however, must be content to witness societies putting the whole of their businesses on ready-money lines.

The need for more capital is seen and felt by most leaders, and societies have been urged to tap trade union and friendly societies' sources and get them to bank within the movement. A fair response to this desirable end can be recorded.

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1916—To Balance brought forward ..	35	16 7	By Committee Meetings	6	12 9
1917— „ Subscriptions	72	10 11	„ Postages, Wires, &c.	3	10 6
			„ Printing and Stationery.....	4	11 8
			„ Advisory Work	23	10 11
			„ Propaganda and Conferences....	31	0 4
			„ Balance	39	1 4
Audited—					
W. R. ANGEAR.					
	£108	7 6		£108	7 6

MARK H. CLEAR, Hon. Secretary.

No. 4.—SUSSEX.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Scrace (chairman), Tunbridge Wells.	Mr. W. Gatland, Crawley.
„ H. C. Kille (secretary), Newhaven.	„ W. Dallaway, Brighton.
„ Mr. L. Razzell, Reigate.	„ B. H. Baker, Newhaven.
„ G. Daughtry, Arundel.	„ Atkins, Lewes.

The following conferences were held during the year:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Brighton	Excess Profits and Income Tax (Management Committees only).	Mr. B. Williams.
Tunbridge Wells .	A National Co-operative Policy	Mr. W. J. Salmon.

The executive have found it very difficult to hold conferences during this year, the co-operative societies having been hit by the shortage of supplies, especially those situated in the seaside towns; and though the multiple shops seemed full of goods, we have had to restrict our members to eke out supplies.

But we are pleased to report that, notwithstanding our difficulties of getting supplies, especially to new members, our total of membership has increased, as also the volume of trade.

The conference for management committees proved a great success. There we could discuss many points of technical value to our societies, and we hope to be able to repeat this conference during the coming year.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings..	6	16	5
Conference—London	1	14	9
Printing and Stationery	0	13	6
Postage	0	6	0
	<hr/>		
	£9	10	8

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand	12	18	1	By Expenses of Representation of Societies not represented on District Executive	1	8	5
				„ Special visit to Society	0	6	0
				„ Delegate to Emergency Conference	1	15	0
				„ Balance in hand	9	8	9
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£12	18	1		£12	18	1

H. C. KILLE, Hon. Secretary.

No. 5.—HANTS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. Hibberd (chairman), Bourne-mouth.	Mr. H. Sanders, Farnham.
„ J. L. Welch (hon. sec.), Portsmouth.	„ E. Alexander, Southampton.
„ S. Bowerman, Portsmouth.	„ A. Price, Shanklin.
„ W. Hutchings, Winchester.	Mrs. A. H. Allen, Aldershot.

Conferences held during the year :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Winchester	Land Nationalisation	Mr. B. Williams.
Ringwood	Co-operative Societies and Income Tax.	District Committee.
Aldershot	National Policy and Programme . . .	Mr. R. Rowsell.
Cowes	Direct Representation	Mr. R. Rowsell.

In addition to the above, six special conferences have been held for the purpose of arousing co-operators to the danger attending the suggested alteration of the law relating to income tax as it affects us. These conferences were arranged exclusively for members of committees of management from all the

societies in the district. The various committees agreed to bring the matter before their respective societies at an early opportunity.

Members of Parliament, representing local constituencies, have been interviewed on the same subject, and although no definite promises have been obtained members have admitted that we have raised points that enabled them to see the matter in a new light.

Meetings for the discussion of "Collective Farming" have also been organised, and several societies are about to embark on this important branch of co-operative work.

All societies report that, notwithstanding the trying times, trade is being maintained, and, so far as Government restrictions allow, extended to outlying towns and villages.

The expenditure for the year is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	24	9	1
Deputations	15	13	10
Postage, Stationery, &c.	2	4	6
	£42	7	5

J. L. WELCH, Hon. Secretary.

NO. 6.—WILTS. AND DORSET.

Executive Committee.

Mr. S. W. Shinner (chairman), Chippenham.	Mr. W. J. Dunning, Trowbridge.
„ R. R. Prynne (hon. sec.), Wilton.	„ A. G. England, Weymouth.
„ A. E. Angell, Bradford-on-Avon.	„ H. J. Poolman, Warminster.
„ C. J. Cane, Salisbury.	„ J. Scanes, Mere.

Conferences held during the year:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Chippenham	{ Annual Report, 1916	Mr. R. R. Prynne, Hon. Sec.
	{ Food Prices	Mr. R. Rowsell.
Bradford-on-Avon	Co-operators and the Income Tax ..	Mr. R. Rowsell.
Amesbury	Stocktaking.....	Mr. R. R. Prynne.
Trowbridge	Direct Co-operative Representation in Parliament.	Mr. S. W. Shinner.

In spite of the restrictions caused by the war, the year 1917 has been one of considerable activity in this district. Four conferences have been

held, as shown in the list above. The first was at Chippenham. The report to Congress was read, and after some discussion adopted. The late secretary (Mr. Box) sent a letter of thanks to the association for the testimonial presented to him. The railway fares having been raised 50 per cent, it was agreed that the payment of delegates' fees be suspended until fares become normal, and with a few alterations and amendments the new district rules were adopted. Mr. R. Rowsell read a carefully-prepared paper on "Food Prices."

At the second conference, held at Bradford-on-Avon, Mr. R. Rowsell read the paper prepared by Mr. W. B. Neville (Royal Arsenal Society) on "Co-operators and the Income Tax."

The third conference, at Amesbury, discussed Mr. Prynne's paper on "Stocktaking," and the delegates had an opportunity of debating points of practical utility in the conduct of their store business.

The fourth conference was held on 12th January, 1918, at Trowbridge, and the subject was a specially prepared paper by Mr. Shinner on "Direct Co-operative Representation in Parliament." The representatives of other democratic and labour organisations in the district were invited, and a large number of these delegates attended. The Co-operative Union resolution was unanimously adopted, and delegates urged to see that their societies acted upon it.

The first task of the executive for the year was the settling of details and arrangements for the administration of our district fund. This has proved a distinct success, and its value will be felt even more in a year or two, when the work of construction and reconstruction begins in earnest.

Another matter of importance has been the policy of getting into touch with the agricultural societies. Some headway has been made, though owing to restrictions on travelling and other war conditions not so much has been done as at first was to be attempted.

The executive have sent representatives to their neighbours, the Somerset district, and it is hoped that an interchange of delegates will be arranged between the adjoining districts of Devon, Somerset, and Hants., so that electoral machinery may be established where needful in cases where electoral districts do not coincide with our own area. A representative has also attended a meeting of the National Union of Teachers at Salisbury, and one has been placed on the Hours and Wages Board. Mr. C. J. Cane (Salisbury) having secured an appointment in another county, resigned his seat on the executive, to the regret of his colleagues.

A new distributive society has been registered at Sturminster Newton. The Mere Society has opened a branch at Gillingham; and a branch business acquired by the Childe Okeford Society at Iwerne Minster, thus showing that extensions can still be made in our movement.

The societies continue to increase largely in trade and membership.

The position of co-operators on food control committees has demanded some attention from our executive. The treatment meted out to the societies ranges from toleration to an absolutely hostile attitude, in some cases no regard being paid to Lord Rhondda's instructions. It is evident that the societies will not gain or maintain their rights without a keen struggle, and the association will have to be utilised as a means of bringing our combined strength to bear. More will be heard of this question in the near future.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Executive (7 meetings, including conferences)	32	7	5
Sectional Conferences	8	4	6
Delegations	1	1	3
Stationery and Postage	1	6	6
Printing (included in District Fund)	4	13	9
	<u>£47</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>

DISTRICT FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1917.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance	13	16 9	By Hire of Hall	0	8 6
„ Societies' Subscriptions—			„ Carriage	0	1 0
Bradford-on-Avon	1	17 0	„ District Secretary, Expenses	0	14 8
Wilton	1	3 1	„ Delegate to Bath	0	8 3
Warminster	1	11 3	„ Printing	8	5 9
Salisbury	4	18 6	„ Postages	0	13 6
Chippenham	6	0 0	„ Delegates to Conferences—		
W.G.	0	10 6	Bradford-on-Avon	4	4 6½
Corsham W.G.	0	8 0	Amesbury	4	16 9
Educ. Com.	0	10 6	Trowbridge	5	17 9½
Weymouth	8	7 10	„ Balance in hand	23	13 10
Great Sherston	0	4 0			
Trowbridge	1	1 0			
Calne	0	18 2			
Devizes	2	3 3			
Mere	1	1 0			
„ Grant from Southern Section	4	13 9			
	<u>£49</u>	<u>4 7</u>		<u>£49</u>	<u>4 7</u>

R. .R. PRYNNE, Hon. Secretary.

No. 7.—OXFORD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. White, (chairman), High Wycombe.	Mr. J. Reeves, Banbury.
„ George Carter (hon. sec.), Oxford.	„ L. H. Taffs, Slough.
„ A. E. Perkins, Windsor.	„ C. E. Taylor, Swindon.
„ T. Ramsey, Oxford.	„ H. Wooldridge, Reading.

The past year has been a difficult one for all societies, but despite shortage of supplies the movement has made progress and demonstrated its usefulness to the workers and its great possibilities for the future.

The great drainage of male labour from societies has caused anxiety to management, but on the whole the increase of female employees has proved satisfactory.

War conditions have been the cause of some societies abolishing trading with non-members and reverting to strict cash trading.

The question of "Food Supply" furnished the subject for discussion at one conference and other meetings of societies. The failure of the Government to deal with the question in a satisfactory and equitable manner was amply demonstrated, and a proper system of allotment of foodstuffs and fair treatment was demanded.

The "Income Tax Menace" has been discussed in most societies. Round-table conferences of management committees have taken place, and several public meetings have been held. Members of Parliament were interviewed, and the claims of the movement on the question were placed before them.

"Parliamentary Representation" has also been much discussed, and in some societies joint efforts are being made with outside bodies to secure better representation on local bodies. The services of some of our Labour members of Parliament have been secured in placing the co-operative position before the public.

Educational activities have been somewhat restricted in the country districts owing to difficulty of obtaining conveyances for choirs and speakers to evening meetings.

Four district conferences have been held, with satisfactory attendances at each :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Banbury	Food Problems	Mr. E. King.
Swindon	Woman's Work and Place in the Co-operative Movement.	Mrs. W. Dale.
Windsor	The Financial Policy of the Movement.	Mr. T. G. Davies.
Oxford	Parliamentary Representation	Mr. J. H. Bate.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	12	9	10½
Conferences	5	8	11
Printing	1	5	6
Postage and Stationery	0	15	7

£19 19 10½

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance, 31st December, 1916 ..	14	2	2	By Holyoake Centenary	1	11	1½
„ Subscriptions	11	11	0	„ Congress Delegate	5	11	0
				„ Committee Meetings (fares only) ..	3	16	2½
				„ Printing	2	0	6
				„ Postage	0	12	4
				„ Balance, 31st December, 1917....	12	2	0
	£25	13	2		£25	13	2

GEORGE CARTER, Hon. Secretary.

No. 8.—CAMBRIDGE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. F. Cole (chairman), Letchworth.	Mr. Simmons, Saffron Walden.
„ W. Resbury (hon. sec.), Sawston.	„ C. Martin, Bishop's Stortford.
„ F. Barnard, Cambridge.	„ B. Touch, Ely.
„ G. B. Poppy, Newmarket.	„ J. Outram, Chatteris.

Conferences have been held during the year as under :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Newmarket	Collective Life Insurance	Mr. Coppin.
Bishop's Stortford .	A National Co-operative Policy	Mr. King.
Cambridge	The Co-operative Union's Scheme for Direct Representation in Parlia- ment and other Public Bodies,	Mr. Foulger.

In addition to these conferences reported above, there has been held five "group" conferences in different parts of the district on "Co-operative Representation in Parliament and on Public Bodies." These have been attended fairly well, and action has already been taken in the district to secure support for legislation brought forward in the interests of our movement.

Weak societies have been visited by members of the committee, and the local committees interviewed, with good results.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	21	10	0
London Conferences	4	17	1
Special Conferences	2	16	0
Deputations	0	4	3
Printing and Stationery	0	8	6
Postage	0	8	0
	£30	3	10

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	27	10	7	By Special Deputations	1	13	0
„ Subscriptions.....	3	3	0	„ Emergency Conference, London..	2	0	0
				„ Postage	0	1	0
				„ Balance at Bank	26	8	2
				„ „ in Secretary's hands....	0	11	5
	£30	13	7		£30	13	7

WILLIAM RESBURY, Hon. Secretary.

No. 9.—NORFOLK.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. S. Reeve (hon. sec.), Norwich.	Mr. W. Willett, Brandon.
„ T. A. Furbank, King's Lynn.	„ A. J. Hagg, Norwich.
„ G. Mayes, Wymondham.	„ J. J. Newman, Great Yarmouth.
„ P. W. Rayment, Lowestoft.	„ W. Speare, Beccles.
„ H. Yates, Fakenham.	„ W. Ireland, Diss.
„ E. T. Offord, Swaffham.	„ J. Page, Sheringham.

The year has not been one for launching out in new directions, but increased membership, trade, and capital are the general order. Attention has been given to maintaining the co-operative spirit and keeping the societies in touch with each other.

The early part of the year was taken up with arranging group meetings to combat the income tax menace. Three such meetings were held as follows: Beccles, 16th June; Fakenham, 30th June; Sheringham, 15th September. As a result Sir Edward Beauchamp, M.P., and Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., have been interviewed, and their replies are considered satisfactory. The other constituency comes under the redistribution scheme, and an interview was not arranged.

Replies have been received from all Government Departments relative to the question of food prices, food production, and agricultural labour, stating the matters are receiving the attention of the Government.

Owing to the sectional conference being held in Norwich on 19th May, only two district conferences have been held, viz. :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Lowestoft	National Policy	Mr. R. Rowsell.
Wymondham ...	Direct Representation	Mr. R. Rowsell.

The conferences were well attended, and good discussion ensued.

In furtherance of the national policy, several societies are making efforts to increase capital, establish penny banks, and abolish credit.

Efforts are being made to secure direct representation by forming local

councils. A meeting was arranged at Great Yarmouth between local trade unions and co-operators, at which the district secretary was invited to speak.

Norwich Society defeated the attempt to alter the rules to enable it to take part in the scheme.

The difficulty of meeting the requirements of increased membership have tempted some to consider the advisability of restricting membership. One society has decided not to accept new members as a temporary measure. Some have adopted rationing systems with advantage. The general effect of controlled prices has been reduced dividends.

A marked improvement has been made at Melton Constable under the new management and an energetic committee.

The Beccles, Diss, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, and Melton Constable societies have become members of the Southern Convalescent Fund during the year.

The district secretary is appointed as representative on the Hours and Wages Board.

Further drafts have been made upon the very small male staffs, and lady branch managers and first hands are no uncommon experience. The Norwich Society had great difficulty in retaining its secretary, who has been spared principally because the society is engaged in providing a quarter of the population with food supplies.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Sectional Conferences	11	19	1
Executive Meetings	10	9	5
Group Meetings and Interviews	3	14	10
Printing and Printed Stationery	2	9	6
Postage	1	13	1
Stationery	0	3	0
Telegrams	0	8	1½
Sundry	0	0	3
	£30	17	3½

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	13	17	3	By Rail Fares and Expenses	1	3	5
„ Subscriptions	5	6	6	„ Balance in hand	18	0	4
	£19	3	9		£19	3	9

THOS. S. REEVE, Hon. Secretary.

No. 10.—ESSEX AND SUFFOLK.

Executive Committee.

Mr. B. S. Wood (chairman), Braintree.	Mr. S. Foulger, Ipswich.
„ W. J. Salmon (hon. sec.), Colchester.	„ G. Ryder, Colchester.
„ Chas. Clift, Chelmsford.	„ F. X. Thoburn, Leiston.
„ F. Davey, Halstead.	„ W. Wade, Stowmarket.

During Congress year four conferences have been held, viz.:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Witham	Income Tax	Mr. Foulger.
Ipswich	Income Tax	Mr. Foulger.
Colchester ..	Direct Parliamentary Representation	Mr. King, Co-op. Union.
Braintree ..	Co-operative Finance	Mr. Golightly, C.W.S.

Our conferences have continued to receive hearty support from the societies, and we have good reason for believing that practical results have been achieved.

As the outcome of the two dealing with the income tax menace, members of Parliament have been interviewed, and (we think) educated as to the real position as it affects the co-operative movement. No doubt pledges were given, but each deputation agreed that something definite had been gained by the interviews. At Colchester the official resolution was unanimously adopted, delegates being agreed that a step forward was now imperative.

The subject of "Co-operative Finance," discussed at Braintree, was full of interest, special points being the abolition of credit trading, purchasing qualifications, and all limitations of members' shareholding. In the discussion the desirability of societies paying fair interest on share capital and the need of securing additional fixed capital for investment with the Co-operative Wholesale Society was fully demonstrated.

The Braintree, Halstead, and Tiptree societies have adopted cash trading in all departments, and report unqualified success.

Speaking generally, the movement is flourishing in the district, but shortage of supplies has reduced the possibility of that increase of trade that under normal conditions would have been obtained.

The expenditure for the year is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Executive Meeting	9	0	8
Conferences	11	2	8
Deputations	3	12	0
Printing and Stationery	1	0	6
Postage	2	1	0
	<hr/>		
	£26 16 10		

DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance	7	14 10	By Delegations and Deputations....	5	19 2
„ Subscriptions	7	7 0	„ Postage, Stationery, &c.	0	9 2
			„ Balance forward	8	13 6
	£15	1 10		£15	1 10

W. J. SALMON, Hon. Secretary.

No. 11.—BEDS. AND BUCKS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. H. Barton (chairman), Luton.	Mr. W. Taylor, Stony Stratford.
„ C. T. Goldsmith (hon. secretary), Bedford.	„ W. H. Bond, St. Albans.
„ W. Atkins, Aylesbury.	„ D. A. Jones, Bedford.
„ J. Bagnall, Tring.	„ W. J. Field, Olney.
„ P. Brightman, Silsoe.	„ R. W. Streets, Hemel Hempstead.
„ J. Day, Berkhamsted.	„ Viccars, Swanbourne.
„ H. Dolling, Wolverton.	„ W. H. Wood, Newport Pagnell.

The special work of our fifth year has been more political than propagandist, in the ordinary sense. The subjects of our conferences bear witness to this. The experiences through which our societies have been passing—the menace of the income tax propaganda, the ignoring of so many of our societies' claims to representation when the food control committees were set up, the difficulties of getting our fair share of scarce foods, &c.—have cumulatively begat a spirit of resentment and created an atmosphere which prepared a warm welcome in this district for the Union's lead for direct representation and all other means of enforcing our demands and defending our rights.

In the early part of the year our political activity was directed to the defeat of the menace of the traders' agitation for the taxing of our surpluses. Later the movement for direct representation was but a development of this, and was equally energetically taken up by practically all our societies. The anti-income tax campaign was focussed through the operations of three joint committees, representing groups of societies, which covered the whole area of our district, who met periodically, and educated their own membership by means of literature, the public by means of meetings, and their members of Parliament by means of joint deputations. We have reason for being especially satisfied with the result of the deputations to the members of Parliament.

The movement for direct representation in all its forms has been taken up enthusiastically all through the district. Most of the societies have set up their electoral councils for local administrative representation, have subscribed to the Union's fighting fund, and have entered into friendly relations with local Labour. In North Bucks. the five co-operative societies have representation on the executive of the new Labour Party, which has recently chosen its Parliamentary candidate. The Bedford Society has taken active

steps in the formation of a local Labour Party, principally on a trade-unionist and co-operative basis.

Although war conditions have necessarily stayed expansion, some of our societies have extended their borders. St. Albans has opened a branch at Hatfield, and Hemel Hempstead came to an agreement with Chesham as to Bovingdon, whereby Hemel Hempstead agreed to give an efficient service there within six months. This has been done. Attention has been given to the speeding-up of our educational methods. The education committees gave our inquiries an encouraging response, with the result that on 23rd March a series of annual conferences for educational committees was instituted. The holding of a district week-end school is under consideration.

The conferences for the year have been :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Opener.
May 12 ..	Wolverton ..	The Menace of the Income Tax Propaganda.	Mr. H. J. May.
Aug. 25 ..	St. Albans ..	The National Policy Programme.	Mr. J. H. Bate.
Dec. 1	Bletchley	Direct Representation	Mr. Rowsell.
Feb. 16 ..	Aylesbury ...	Conscription of Wealth.....	Mr. B. Williams.

These subjects, being real live ones, have attracted large attendances at our conferences, which have remarkably well maintained their tone and vigour, and have gained in usefulness in focussing and educating co-operative opinion.

The expenditure for the year has been—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings and Conferences	18	3	8½
Deputations	0	13	11
Group Meetings: Income Tax Menace Propaganda.	5	6	7
Printing	1	9	6
Postage	1	7	6½
	£27	1	3

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand	12	4	4	By Committee Meetings	3	2	1
„ Subscriptions	7	8	6	„ Visitation Expenses	0	2	7½
				„ Postage.....	0	1	6
				„ Clerical assistance in circularising Committees	0	5	0
				„ Balance in hand	16	1	7½
	£19	12	10		£19	12	10

CHAS. T. GOLDSMITH, Hon. Secretary.

SOUTHERN CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

Executive Council.

Mr. W. J. Salmon (president), Central Board.	Mr. R. Hibberd, Parkstone and Bournemouth.
Mr. W. J. Foster (hon. secretary), Co-operative Bass Dressers.	Miss J. P. Madams, Co-operative Brotherhood Trust.
„ B. Williams (secretary), Southern Sectional Board.	Mr. W. J. Sunman, Bromley and Crays.
Miss E. E. M. Allen, Croydon.	„ J. Williams, Swindon.
Mr. J. H. Bate, Central Board.	Mrs. M. A. Tucker, Royal Arsenal.
„ J. J. Dent, Working Men's College.	„ A. J. Vigis, Stratford.
	Miss C. Webb, Wimbledon.
	Mr. A. E. T. Wilson, Edmonton.

The gravity of the national danger with which we are confronted is such as to cause us to think seriously and deeply, and to consider what part we are to take in the future guidance and government of our country.

We realise more than ever the great importance of prompt and definite action, guided by clear thinking and accurate knowledge. This serious thoughtfulness has apparently led to a growing desire for an extension of educational facilities, and is no doubt largely responsible for the educational reawakening which has been so striking a feature of the past year.

This reawakening has manifested itself in the increased numbers attending our conferences—even in spite of restricted travelling facilities—the large and enthusiastic attendances at the summer school held in London last summer, the new and rapidly developing desire for week-end schools, the remarkable increase in the number of classes for women, and the decision of the Sectional and United Boards to form a central authority in London for propaganda and educational work. All these evidences fill us with high hope for the future, and fully justify our efforts in the past.

Three conferences have been held during the year, on the following subjects :—

The Survey Committee's Interim Report on Education.—The Council, acting upon the suggestion of Congress, decided to devote two of its meetings to a consideration of this report. Mr. W. R. Rae (chairman of the Central Education Committee) introduced the subject on each occasion.

Parliamentary Representation.—The responsibility for educating their members and giving them opportunities for considering and discussing the many problems affecting our civic life devolves upon educational committees, and, with a view of helping them, our third conference was devoted to a consideration of a paper on “Co-operation and National Politics,” by Mr. B. Williams. In this Mr. Williams urged as a first step the concentration upon three main points—the conscription of wealth, the taxation of land values (with a view to ultimate national control), and equal educational opportunities for all.

CLASS WORK.

It is gratifying to be able to report that, notwithstanding many difficulties, the following classes have been held :—

	Classes.	Students enrolled.
Junior Classes in Co-operation	26	87
Intermediate	1	20
Adult Co-operation	7	108
Industrial History	5	74
Citizenship	2	28
Book-keeping	4	56

Classes for women have been held at Aldershot, Enfield, Farnham, Edmonton, Penge, Portsmouth, West London, and Woking.

Miss J. P. Madams has again represented the Association on the Central Education Committee, and Messrs. Bate and Salmon have represented the Sectional Board on the Council of the Association, thus maintaining a close and cordial relationship between the three bodies.

Owing to pressure of other business, Mr. E. J. Bull found himself obliged to resign his position as president. The Council reluctantly accepted the resignation, at the same time recording their high appreciation of the useful work he had done for the Association.

W. J. SALMON, President.

B. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

(7) SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	Attendances Made.		Possible Attendances.
Mr. W. Brown (treasurer).....	10	....	10
Mr. J. T. Davis	10	....	10
Mr. M. Found	10	....	10
Mr. R. Pearce (secretary)	10	....	10
Rev. G. A. Ramsay.....	9	....	10
Mr. W. H. Watkins (chairman)	10	....	10
Mr. A. Bullock (hon. member).....	2	....	10
Mr. R. R. Prynn „	1	....	10
Mr. C Vaughan „	1	....	—

It is with sincere regret we record the death of Mr. C. Vaughan, late honorary member of the Board, and one of the oldest pioneers of the movement in Devon and Cornwall and the South-West generally. He had reached a ripe age, and had lived sufficiently long to see many of the efforts he made rewarded by results.

The continued war difficulties have not lessened the vigour, nor weakened the purposes which have pronouncedly marked co-operative activities in this section during the last few years.

The efforts to secure the amalgamation and consolidation of societies, referred to in last year's report, have been continued and maintained, and the principles of consolidation and joint action are being now more largely accepted. Thus the Darite Society, in Cornwall, has been amalgamated with Liskeard. In certain instances, where the juxtaposition of societies created fear of competition and overlapping, working arrangements have been made, and others are being negotiated.

The Falmouth Society, one of the oldest in the South-West of England, after holding an isolated position for many years, is again uniting itself to the District Association and to the Co-operative Union.

A new society has been formed at St. Mawes (Cornwall) for the purpose of supplying coal to its members.

At Redruth there has been active propaganda, but the prevailing situation in respect to supplies does not warrant either the establishment of a new society or an immediate opening of a branch by the Camborne Society, which is meeting, as far as possible, the needs of the newly joined co-operators in the former town.

In Devon, South Molton, with true co-operative spirit, is supplying the hundred or more members at Barnstaple, who have expressed a keen desire

that a society should again be formed there, or, better still, that a branch be established of an amalgamation of societies to serve more completely the North-West Devon area.

The newly appointed Devon district organiser has done about eight months' work in the county, and the influence of that work is already being felt. The near future will undoubtedly show definite results in the form of increased membership and trade.

It is an interesting question as to whether the organiser's services could be made available for a period in Somerset, so that the propaganda work carried on in that county during the early part of the year might be brought to fruition, since there is no doubt that interest on the part of societies and the people was awakened by the efforts then made.

A further noteworthy feature in the Somerset district is the union of neighbouring societies around Bath to become joint owners of land, which will provide their members with farm produce. The Wellington Society has secured a farm of 60 acres for dairy produce.

In July the Sectional Board constituted itself into an "Hours and Wages Board." Up to that time there had been no demand for the services of such a board in the section, and it was thought that the prevailing conditions in the South-West did not warrant the institution of another body in the area for "hours and wages" purposes. The Board's action has been confirmed by a majority of the societies in the section.

On behalf of the Sectional Board, congratulations have been extended to the Plymouth Society's Educational Committee on the position taken by Plymouth students in the Co-operative Union examinations in 1917. The Summer School, under the joint auspices of the Co-operative Union and the Plymouth Society, held at Whymptstone Hall in September, and the week-end school held during the previous Eastertide were both very successful and much appreciated.

Sectional conferences have been held at (1) Plymouth, 20th October, 1917, when "Educational Reconstruction" was discussed, and (2) at Exeter, on 16th February, 1918, when "National Rationing of Food" was the subject under consideration. At the various district conferences other matters of general co-operative importance have been debated.

The members of Parliament representing the constituencies in the section have been approached as to their attitude on the Excess Profits Tax. Their replies are regarded by the Board as, on the whole, very unsatisfactory.

The subject of representation on national and local assemblies has occupied much thought, and has been prominent throughout the year. Most societies in the section have accepted the principle of direct representation, and to stimulate action constituency meetings are being held, and, wherever possible, local councils are being formed. A notable instance of such activity in this connection is seen among the societies in the Torbay area. Members of the Board and of local trades councils are working together for a better understanding between the democratic organisations in the section, and have also

joined in meetings of protest against the action of local bodies who, in the selection of food control committees, have ignored, and are ignoring, the co-operative movement.

In regard to some of the agricultural and kindred societies which have been formed in this section during the last twelve months, the Board regrets that local societies have not been consulted, since competition and overlapping seem likely to result.

In the section as a whole a good spirit is finding expression, and the outlook for the future is distinctly encouraging.

W. H. WATKINS, Chairman.

ROBT. PEARCE, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—BRISTOL AND SOMERSET.

Executive Committee.

Mr. H. Westbury (president).
 „ J. Marks, J.P. (treasurer).
 „ C. A. Connolly (secretary).
 „ F. Mills, Bristol.
 „ W. Merrick, Bristol.
 Mrs. Treble, Bristol.
 Mr. S. J. Plummer, Bridgwater.
 „ W. C. Lock, Bruton.
 „ T. W. Hill, Bristol Printers.
 „ W. Plummer, Coleford.
 „ F. Ackland, Frome.
 „ H. G. Hooper, Frampton.
 „ G. Brown, Oakhill.
 „ W. Gillingham, Portishead.
 Rev. G. A. Ramsay, Radstock.
 Mr. G. Bryant, Radstock.
 „ T. Barter, Radstock.
 „ W. J. Hodges, Taunton.
 „ G. Rex, Taunton.

Mr. C. Maynard, Templecombe.
 „ R. G. Naish, Twerton.
 „ C. Powell, Twerton.
 „ A. V. Treasure, Weston.
 Mrs. Pierce, Yeovil.
 Mr. T. Foyle, Yeovil.
 „ W. B. Slade, Bristol Educational.
 „ H. E. Hawkins, Bridgwater Educ'l.
 „ W. Brown, Weston Educational.
 „ E. G. Haskins, Twerton Educat'n'l
 Mrs. Joy, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Hunt, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Crease, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Greenland, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Britton, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Squire, Bridgwater Guild.
 „ Bacon, Weston Guild.
 „ Hulse, Twerton Guild.
 „ Duckworth, Yeovil Guild.

Sub-executive Committee: Messrs. H. Westbury (president), A. V. Treasure (treasurer), C. A. Connolly (secretary), C. E. Betty, R. G. Naish, W. J. Petherick, Rev. G. A. Ramsay, and A. H. Stroud.

Sectional Board Representative: Mrs. Found.

Representative on S.W.E.A.: Mr. W. Brown.

In this the fourth year of practically universal war, your committee feel that any attempt to draw definite conclusions from the statistics given below might prove very misleading, if not absolutely futile.

The enhanced price of goods, Government restrictions and control, and the difficulty of obtaining supplies, &c., are all factors which detract from the value of the figures for comparative purposes, and we therefore give them without comment.

	Members.	Capital.	Profits.	Sales.	Reserves.	Education.
		£	£	£	£	£
1916....	51,610 ..	429,210 ..	113,797 ..	1,177,464 ..	32,139 ..	1,164
1915....	47,788 ..	380,400 ..	105,373 ..	1,017,371 ..	29,928 ..	1,034
Increase	3,822	48,810	8,124	160,093	2,211	130

There has been no general demand for the services of the association during the year, as in some instances committees and officials feel that with scarcity of labour and goods they have as much as they can do to meet the ordinary influx of members.

The usual number of conferences and committee meetings have been held, at which many interesting matters were considered. The first conference was held in January, at Bristol, when the report and balance sheet were dealt with and officers elected.

At Taunton, in April, Mr. G. S. Woods opened a discussion on the "Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices," dealing with the question from a broad and comprehensive point of view. Mr. Woods' address was both instructive and stimulating.

The July meeting, held at Twerton, discussed a very thoughtful paper, prepared by Mr. R. G. Naish and introduced by Mr. E. G. Haskins; while the October conference received the reports of the delegates to the Women's Guild and Swansea Congresses, after which Mr. W. H. Bryant (Western Section) gave a careful *résumé* of the Survey Committee's report.

In spite of restricted train services all our meetings were largely attended, but it will be noted that the increased fares has meant an additional cost of over £25.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	65	0	2	By Conferences—			
„ Subscriptions from Societies	124	5	1	Bristol.....	15	13	3
„ Educational Committees	6	6	0	Taunton	23	15	2½
„ Women's Guilds	6	15	0	Twerton	13	11	9½
„ Trade Dividend	0	1	1½	Weston	20	14	0
„ Joint Propaganda Committee	20	0	0	„ Delegations—			
„ Co-operative Union.....	30	16	10	Templecombe (3)	£1	2	1
„ Bank Interest	0	3	3	Coombe Down	1	7	0
				Taunton	0	19	1½
				Bridgwater	0	11	0
				Torquay	0	19	8
				Bradford-on-Avon ..	0	7	9
				Bristol	0	6	6
				Twerton	1	1	3
				Overnight Expenses (2) ..	0	12	0
						7	6 4½
				„ Delegate to Guild Congress.....	3	5	4
				„ Grant to „ „	3	3	0
				„ Grant to Weston „ National			
				Emergency Conference	3	3	0
Carried forward	253	7	5½	Carried forward	100	11	11½

	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
Brought forward.....	253	7	5½	By	Brought forward	100	11	11½
					Delegato to ditto	4	2	0
					Special Propaganda	6	9	10
					Taunton Education Committee..	1	1	0
					S.W.E.A. Expenses	2	19	11½
					Refund - Stoke Society	0	6	0
					Delegato—Swansea Congress	3	13	10
					Secretary's Remuneration	5	0	0
					Treasurer's	2	0	0
Audited—					Printing, Posting, and Carriage..	8	11	2
W. H. MERRICK.					Cost of Audit.....	1	13	5
C. POWELL.					Cheque Book.....	0	4	2
					Sub-executive Expenses	30	16	10
					Cash in Bank.....	82	16	2
					Cash in hand.....	3	1	1½
	£253	7	5½			£253	7	5½

C. A. CONNOLLY, Secretary.

No. 2.—DEVON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. R. S. Mundy (chairman), Exeter.	Mr. T. Dunn, Exmouth.
„ E. Truscott (secretary), Plymouth.	„ J. Marks, Plymouth.
„ H. S. Glanfield (treasurer), Newton Abbot.	„ W. E. Saunders, J.P., Southmolten.
„ M. Hoare, Buckfastleigh.	„ F. E. Willis, Torquay.
	„ W. T. Leaman, Teignmouth.

Sectional Board Representative : Rev. G. A. Ramsey.

Representative of the South-Western Educational Association :

Mr. F. E. Willis.

It is with pleasure that the committee presents the thirtieth annual report and statement of the Conference Association. The year under review has been one of strenuous activity, and the results achieved will, no doubt, be more apparent in the years to come.

Acting on the decision of the annual meeting, held at Newton Abbot in March last, we have launched out on very definite lines upon the question of propaganda, and for the first time in the history of the Association have now a full-time propagandist assisting the committee in carrying out the desirable object of developing and consolidating the co-operative movement in the county of Devon.

In response to inquiries for information, the position at the end of the year was as follows:—

Retail Distribute Societies.	Members.	Sales.	Share Capital.	Reserves.
30	82,957	£1,993,773	£764,648	£112,859

Five conferences have been held during the year as under :—

Date.	Where held.	Subject Discussed.	Introduced by
1917.			
17th March	Newton Abbot	Annual Report	District Secretary.
28th April.....	Torquay	Income Tax	Mr. W. H. Watkins.
16th June	Exeter.....	Direct Co-operative Representation in Parliament.	Rev. G. A. Ramsay.
15th September.	Teignmouth ..	Propagandists and Propaganda.....	Mr. Geo. E. Griffiths, District Organiser.
15th December..	Plymouth	A National Co-operative Policy and a National Co-operative Programme for the Congress year, 1917-18.	Mr. T. W. Mercer.

Limitation of space will only allow a passing word in connection with the quarterly conferences. We rejoice, however, at their continued success. The papers prepared and read to the meetings, the discussions of the subjects by the delegates, and the increasing interest taken in these gatherings, give your committee every satisfaction, and we take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the various societies for the arrangements made to entertain the Association.

Direct Parliamentary Representation.—This most important question has been exercising the minds of the leaders of the movement for many years, and at the Swansea Congress a very definite step was taken to put this most desirable ideal into practical shape. It is hoped that every society in the county will give this question their most serious attention, and in conjunction with all other progressive forces develop a new spirit of citizenship. Steps have been taken to form committees in the various constituencies in the county. At Plymouth, Newton Abbot, Exeter, and Torquay very valuable work has been done, and at present a vigorous campaign is being carried on in these districts. It is suggested that the District Committee should be authorised to act as a Direct Parliamentary Representation Committee to help forward this work throughout the county of Devon.

Public Meetings.—The number of meetings attended by the committee have not been so large as in former years. We have, however, rendered assistance to several societies during the year, and good meetings have taken place. In addition we have had interviews with several committees and rendered help in various directions.

Amalgamation and Consolidation of Societies in the District.—This matter has received the most careful attention of your committee during the past year, and a sub-committee in conjunction with the Sectional Board has formulated a scheme to present to societies. It is imperative that there should be a linking-up of societies in the near future.

The limited space at disposal renders impossible anything more than a summarised account of the organising and propaganda work carried out during the months under review, but it is hoped that the following particulars will convey a sufficiently accurate impression of the main features of our activities :—

Societies Visited.—Teignmouth, Exeter (Ottery St. Mary), Cullompton,

Exeter (Topsham), Newton Abbot, Cullompton, Teignmouth, Plympton, and Ilfracombe.

Meetings.—Some idea of the extent of this branch of the work may be gathered from the fact that upwards of seventy meetings have been dealt with—an average of three per week.

The public meetings were uniformly successful, and their influence was far-reaching; they stimulated educational work, including the formation of several branches of the Women's Guild, contributed materially towards popularising the societies, aroused enthusiasm amongst the members, widened the movement's circle of friends, and gave publicity to co-operative dissatisfaction with the constitution of food control committees, &c. Also, the newspaper press gave very fair prominence to our reports, thus further enhancing the value of meetings from a propaganda standpoint.

Canvassing.—This branch of the work has naturally been hampered by the somewhat widely prevalent view that it is scarcely desirable to add to co-operative membership in these days of food stringency. Opinion, however, is divided on this question, and those who do not take the conservative view have the satisfaction of knowing that they are in line with the influential thought of the movement, and certainly with the highest co-operative principles.

Co-operative Guilds.—The new branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild established since the organiser took up duties are six in number, viz. : Teignmouth, Dawlish, Topsham, Kingsteignton, Plympton, and Ilfracombe. In recognition of our help in this direction, a resolution of appreciation and thanks for services rendered in helping to organise the women in the section was passed at the women's guild sectional conference, held at Teignmouth on 4th December. The extension of the guild movement and the foundation of new guilds is, too, an essential first step towards the effective extension of educational work amongst the children. Women's guilds, for instance, would seem to be the medium for the establishment of children's circles, junior classes, choirs, and the like—at any rate as affecting small societies.

Trade-unionism and Co-operation.—We are endeavouring to remove many prejudices and inexactitudes still current in some trade union quarters with regard to the co-operative movement. The work done in this field has in some degree contributed towards the desired end. It will be agreed that in view of the active joint Parliamentary representation campaign in contemplation, a good understanding should prevail between the district association and the trade union movement, and nothing but good can accrue from each movement's efforts to understand the methods and ideals of the other.

Literature.—The sale of the *Co-operative News* has been steadily pushed, and considerable quantities of "Our Story" and "Co-operation for All" have been sold, together with a certain number of copies of the National Emergency Conference Report, and other topical publications. Large quantities of free literature have also been distributed, with good propaganda results. We are indebted to the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited for supplies of

cussion followed, which mainly centred on fusion of forces, amalgamation, and consolidation of existing societies. The system of grouping societies for the above purpose was heartily approved, and it was generally agreed that Cornwall had taken a very progressive step. The report was adopted unanimously and the Executive congratulated on their forward policy. The Saltash and Falmouth societies were admitted to membership. Gratifying reports were received from delegates representing the various societies, nearly all showing a substantial increase in trade and membership. The burning question of excess profits was raised and the following resolution unanimously adopted :—" That this meeting of delegates of the Cornwall District Association express their appreciation and thanks to the Plymouth Co-operative Society for the strong action they have taken in relation to the question of excess profits, and trust they will still pursue the action they have taken up, believing, as we do, that they are fighting the cause of the whole movement." There were ten nominations for the Executive, and the scrutineers declared the following to be duly elected :—Messrs. W. J. Laphorn (Plymouth), A. Davey (Pensilva), W. J. Jose (Lostwithiel), J. Laundry (Menheniot), R. Pearce (Delabole), J. R. Toms (Liskeard), A. E. Trenwith (Penzance), and W. Wilkinson (St. Austell).

The second conference was held at Pensilva. Messrs. Harris and Davey gave the delegates a hearty welcome. Mr. W. H. Watkins (South-Western Section) introduced the subject of "Co-operation in Cornwall," and dealt with the question extensively, which was followed by the delegates very keenly. Mr. Watkins reminded the delegates of the fact that close on fifty years ago there were co-operative societies existing in nearly every village around the Caradon Hills. It was decided that the South-Western Sectional Board be asked to tabulate the facts and figures presented by Mr. Watkins, so that they could be issued to the Cornish societies in the form of a leaflet.

The third conference was held at Plymouth, jointly with the Sectional Board, the Devon District Association, and the South-Western Educational Association. Mr. Davis (South-Western Sectional Board) presided, and the Rev. G. A. Ramsay introduced the subject of "Co-operative Educational Reconstruction." Mr. W. H. Watkins dealt with the Survey Committee's Report. A good discussion followed.

The fourth conference was held at Liskeard on 8th December, 1917. Mr. F. Williams, C.C. (treasurer), of the local society, took the chair and gave the delegates a hearty welcome to Liskeard.

Mr. J. T. Davis, in a very able address, introduced the subject of "The Necessity of Political Representation and Its Application to Cornwall," and a good discussion followed, the opinions given being many and varied as to the best method to adopt. The following resolution was adopted :—

That this meeting heartily approves the principle of political action and requests the Executive to call constituency conferences to give effect thereto.

At the tea table a collection was made on behalf of the local hospital.

The Executive has held eleven meetings during the year, in which much routine work has been done.

Our efforts in propaganda work this year have been somewhat restricted owing to the limited railway facilities, but meetings have been held in various places. At Penzance and Hayle the results have been very satisfactory.

A public meeting was held at Redruth and the Camborne Society was approached with the idea of starting a branch at Redruth, but nothing definite has been decided. There is, however, good ground in that direction for more propaganda work, and it is hoped, with the united efforts of the section and district, to again move in that district.

Other meetings have been held at St. Austell, Bugle, Lostwithiel, Darite, and St. Blazey. No new society or branch has been started in the county during the year, our efforts being concentrated mainly on the consolidation of the existing societies, and we are pleased to know that our efforts have not been in vain, for in Group A an amalgamation has been effected between the Darite Society and the Liskeard St. Cleer and District Society, and it is hoped that other societies will see the benefit of this move and fall into line.

The Lostwithiel Society is still progressing and has just completed the purchase of a very commodious block of buildings suitable for future developments.

Endeavours have been made to bring the societies in Group 2 together for the purpose of united efforts in production, and it is hoped that before long something definite may be determined.

At the request of societies the question of representatives on the various Food Control Committees was considered, and the following resolution was drafted and forwarded to about twenty Borough and District Councils :—

That this Executive, representing over 50,000 working-class consumers, emphatically protests against the inadequate representation given to co-operative societies upon the various Food Control Committees set up in the county, and calls upon the proper authorities to reconstitute these committees in accordance with the letter and spirit of Lord Rhondda's instructions.

Favourable replies were received from a few of the councils, but others resented our interference.

Owing to the continuation of the world war, with all its attendant evils, the past year has been one of extreme difficulty and anxiety to our movement, but it is gratifying to be able to congratulate ourselves upon the sound and healthy condition of the societies in the district. Sales and membership have increased generally, but the rate of profit has fallen. This will, however, demonstrate to the public that the co-operative societies are not profiteers.

In closing our report we wish to tender our sincere thanks to those societies entertaining the conferences, and all who have endeavoured to make those meetings a success.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

[illegible]

J. R. TOMS, Secretary.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. G. Naish (chairman), Twerfen.	Mrs. Berryman, Exeter.
" H. V. Grassby (hon. treas.), Exeter.	" S. Burman, Bristol.
" W. White (hon. secretary), Torquay.	Mr. R. Stephens, Bovey Tracey.
" T. Harwood, Plymouth.	" J. Burleigh, Bristol.

Representative of the Sectional Board: Rev. G. A. Ramsay.

Representative of the Devon Conference Association : Mr. F. E. Willis.

Representative of the Bristol and Somerset Conference Association:
Mr. W. Brown.

Educational work in the section is carried on under great difficulties, yet it is noticeable in many districts the usual standard is maintained. A summer school was very successful under the auspices of the Plymouth Education Committee.

The January conference at Bristol was addressed by Mr. Rae.

The April conference at Exeter by Mr. E. R. S. Mundy.

The annual meeting at Torquay was largely attended.

The October conference was a joint one with the Sectional Board, when Mr. Watkins and the Rev. G. A. Ramsay opened a discussion on "The Survey Report" and "Educational Reconstruction." At all the conferences the discussion which followed the respective openers was of an intelligent and educative character. The reduced financial income of about £45 restricts the work of the association. In addition to children's and adult classes in many districts in the section, a women's co-operators' class was held at Torquay.

W. WHITE, Hon. Secretary.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION CO-OPERATIVE CONVALESCENT FUND.

Committee.

Mr. H. Wilkins (chairman), C.W.S.
 „ A. Bullock (secretary), Bristol.
 „ J. White (auditor).
 „ Ackland, Frome.
 „ R. Andrews, Newton Abbot,
 „ W. Brown, Weston-super-Mare.
 Mrs. M. Found, Bristol.

Mr. C. Powell, Twerton-on-Avon.
 „ E. R. S. Mundy, Exeter.
 „ G. Grist, Radstock.
 „ H. Westbury, Bridgwater.
 „ W. White, Torquay.
 „ C. White, Plymouth.

We have pleasure in submitting for your consideration and approval the fourth annual report and statement of accounts for the period ended 31st December, 1917.

The annual meeting was held at Exeter in February, when the usual business was transacted and the committee appointed.

Membership.—It has been our pleasure during the year to admit to membership the following societies:—Wells, Plymouth Printers, Lostwithiel, and Camborne. Two societies, Axminster and Yeovil, have lapsed, but we trust each will make good in the new year. It is gratifying to find that the work of the fund is gradually becoming better known, and we feel sure that if those who are outside our ranks would give the matter the serious attention it deserves all would be with us to help carry on the good work in which we are engaged; of this we are sure, that the moral influence exerted in societies by means of this fund is all to the good, and those societies which make the fund well-known receive the most benefit.

Finance.—The income this year again shows an increase on past years. It is pleasing to note that the societies that pay according to rule, i.e., on membership, are automatically increasing their contributions as the societies grow, and other societies have generously added to former contributions. We have received in contributions from societies, including Co-operative Wholesale Society's and Employees' Funds, a total of £267. 4s., as against £229. 13s. 5d. last year, an increase of £37. 10s. 7d.; patients' payments towards their expenses amount to £5. 19s., and refunds £2. 11s.

Cases.—Through the year we have had to deal with 101 cases, and have granted various amounts, according to circumstances, to 100, the total cost being £205. 11s. 10d., an average of about 41s. per case, an increased average (due to extra cost in living) of 4s. per case over last year.

The benefits have been received by 48 men, 49 women, and 3 children. 35 cases have come under scale A, 1 under scale B, 1 under scale C, and 63 under scale D; in all 390 weeks' benefits have been granted.

The complaints from which patients suffer are many and varied.

In concluding this report, we desire to tender our best thanks to those societies which have so kindly placed rooms at our disposal in which to transact business, and for hospitality extended to us on all occasions of our

meeting, and who by such action are keeping alive the fraternal spirit which is the very essence of our movement.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

Income.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance in Bank, 31st Dec., 1916	72	13 0	By Grants to Cases	205	11 10
„ „ „ hand, „	0	15 6	„ Royal Mineral Water Hospital ..	3	0 0
„ Contribution from Societies	232	16 0	„ Printing and Stationery	4	5 0
„ „ „ C.W.S.	26	5 0	„ Travelling	4	10 6
„ Bristol and Brislington C.W.S.			„ General Postages	3	18 8
„ Employés	5	0 0	„ Secretary's Honorarium	15	0 0
„ Bristol Society Employés	3	3 0	„ Bank charges	0	2 7
„ Contributions from patients	5	19 0	„ Balance in Bank	116	12 1
„ Refunds—Cases 248, 288	2	11 0	„ „ „ hand	0	17 0
„ Bank Dividend	0	18 6			
„ „ Interest	3	16 8			
	£353	17 8		£353	17 8

BANK DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
On Deposit, 31st December, 1916....	545	6 11	On Deposit, 31st December, 1917....	510	1 5
Interest, 1916	24	14 6	Audited—		
	£570	1 5	J. WHITE.	£570	1 5

H. J. A. WILKINS, Chairman.

ALBERT BULLOCK, Secretary.

(8) WESTERN SECTION.

Ten meetings of the Board have been held since last Congress. The attendances of members are as follows:—

	Present.	Absent.
Mr. R. R. Chappell	9	†1
Mr. J. P. Davies	10	—
Mr. D. Evans	9	*1
Mr. D. Williams	10	—
Mr. J. R. Davies	*3	—
Mr. W. H. Bryant	10	—
Mr. H. Watkins.....	†5	—

* Sick.

† New Member.

‡ District Conference.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting:—

Chairman : Mr. R. R. Chappell.

Treasurer : Mr. D. Evans,

Secretary : Mr. Bryant.

Representatives to the—

United BoardMr. R. R. Chappell.

Central Education CommitteeMr. J. P. Davies.

District Associations' Executives—

Gloucester and HerefordMr. Bryant.

Monmouth, Brecon, and East Glamorgan.....Mr. Evans.

West WalesMr. D. Williams.

Mid-Glamorgan.....Mr. J. R. Davies.

We are pleased to report that the general trend with our societies throughout the section has been one of progress and increase, held back by only one reason—the ever-growing scarcity of supplies. Many meetings of societies, conferences, and the Managers' Association have been held, and all with one accord asking the Government to institute a national rationing scheme for all the essential articles. We cannot resist the conviction that were it not for the secret opposition of vested interests the matter would have been decided on lines of equity long ago.

We held our usual joint meeting with the four district associations on 23rd July, and discussed the work for the current year, again asking each district to pay as much attention as possible to the question of education, and we are pleased to hear of several education committees being set up in the various districts.

Swansea Congress.—Since our last report the section has had the honour of entertaining Congress, and we venture to express the hope that delegates returned therefrom satisfied that the section in general, and local societies in particular, had done their best to make them comfortable during their stay, ably seconded by the clerk of the weather. Under the circumstances of wartime, the catering was admirable, and we are glad as a section that the local arrangements proved so admirably successful. Never have we seen the public meetings associated better attended or more enthusiastic, and the musical programmes provided were excellent.

Of the general tone of the Congress proceedings and the important decisions arrived at it is not necessary to speak here, as they have since formed the main topics for the whole of the co-operative world.

Conferences.—During the year two sectional conferences have been held. The first conference was held at Gloucester on the 11th August, when we were favoured with the presence of Professor Hall, who gave an address on the "Extended Programme of Co-operative Education." The attendance was good, and included, besides the delegates from societies, a number of the students from the summer school, which was then in session at Bradley Court. The discussion was well maintained, and great enthusiasm on behalf of the more vigorous propagation of the educational side of our movement was expressed by several delegates. Professor Hall ably replied to all points raised, and was cordially thanked for his address.

The second conference was held in Cardiff, on the subject of "Food Rationing," when Mr. T. W. Allen (Co-operative Wholesale Society) gave a very full and lengthy *résumé* of the present food position. Mr. Allen, who gave this address at extremely short notice, was earnestly thanked for his able services, and a resolution was carried unanimously calling upon the Government to institute at once such a system of rationing of all the essential articles as would ensure an equitable distribution.

The feeling expressed by Mr. Allen, and endorsed by all present, was that we must demand the right to supply our registered members, and that facilities be accorded to those who have been driven by the failures of supply in the past to re-register with their own society.

Hours and Wages Board.—Since our last annual report, the above board has had a strenuous and anxious time. As it represented the whole section, and a demand for very large increases of wages and amended conditions of labour was made by the A.U.C.E. for the whole of South Wales and Monmouthshire, negotiations were at once set on foot to endeavour to arrive at an amicable settlement. Numerous joint meetings were held between the Board and the A.U.C.E. representatives, and the Hours and Wages Board strained every nerve to settle matters by various offers and suggestions. Recognising that prevailing conditions demanded in some cases substantial advances of wages, many concessions were made at the various meetings. Eventually, to the great regret of the Board, the A.U.C.E. suddenly announced that they must adhere to the whole of their original demands,

and requested that the matter should be referred to the National Conciliation Board.

A conference of the affiliated societies was immediately called, and the whole matter placed before the delegates, who decided to agree to the proposal.

The National Conciliation Board subsequently met at Cardiff, with Mr. A. W. Tyler as independent chairman, on 22nd and 23rd August, 1917, and again at Manchester on 5th September, and the award was signed on 12th September.

Following receipt of the award, much dissatisfaction was expressed by the societies concerned, and meetings were held at Cardiff, attended by Messrs. Whitehead and Blakeborough, to discuss matters. While there was a strong desire on the part of all to honourably accept an award made by the body set up by Congress to deal with such matters, there was also a feeling of great soreness about some of the clauses—particularly clause 16, which reads as follows:—“*War Bonus where Employees do not Benefit.*—Any employee, male or female, not benefited by this award, shall be paid an extra 10 per cent on their present weekly wages, as war bonus.” This, it was claimed and showed, worked very hardly upon some of the societies that were already paying generous wages by comparison. Also the long period of retrospective payment was not felt to be justified.

One regrettable event in connection with the matter was a three days' strike with the Swansea Society, when very high-handed proceedings were taken by the members of the A.U.C.E., branch managers locking up the shops and retaining the keys, to the great inconvenience of the members of the society.

Several societies have given notice to withdraw from the Hours and Wages Board, and at the time of writing this report a further meeting is being called to determine the future proceedings as to re-election or otherwise of the Board.

General.—Our four district associations continue to regularly carry on useful and sustained work, as shown by the following reports:—

The Convalescent Fund also continues its career of help and sympathy and to strengthen its finances.

Our thanks are due to all who have so kindly rendered service during the past year.

R. R. CHAPPELL, Chairman.

W. H. BRYANT, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. M. Perkins (chairman), Cinderford.	Mr. E. Jones, Pillowell.
„ F. J. Hyett (treasurer), Hereford.	„ W. F. Pardoe, Kemble.
„ R. R. Chappell (sec.), Gloucester.	„ H. R. Prosser, Gloucester.
„ Wm. Bullock, Lydney.	„ W. H. Bryant, Western Section.
„ J. W. Stephens, Stroud.	

In presenting the annual report for the year, we regret that owing to the continuance of the war in which we are engaged it has had a most detrimental effect on our efforts to carry an propaganda work as we anticipated, but owing to the shortness of commodities needed by the members societies have had troublesome times, and the difficulty was to persuade members that committees were doing all that was possible to be done. Those members who were not loyal before the war insisted on their rights to be served with a share of the goods; therefore it was thought advisable not to have meetings until more opportune time arrived. We were anticipating and arrangements had been made for a series of meetings to be addressed by Mrs. Penny (Sheffield), but we are sorry, owing to the difficulties previously stated, only at Pillowell and Hereford could arrangements be made. We expected a good meeting at Cinderford, but at the time the meeting was held they were in the throes of labour troubles, all the employees being out on strike.

At Pillowell a splendid meeting was held at which a crowded audience attended. We sent some artistes from Gloucester with Mrs. Penny and Mrs. Prosser. The report in the public press spoke very highly of the way in which Mrs. Penny introduced her subject, and also of the District Association in bringing Mrs. Penny into the Forest of Dean.

At Hereford the meeting was not so successful as at Pillowell, but if we can arrange for Mrs. Penny to again attend we are of opinion that another meeting will be more successful.

Our first conference was on "The Proposed Taxation of Co-operative Dividends and Excess War Profits." The discussion was good, but the Parliamentary Committee came in for a lot of criticism.

A conference was held at Gloucester, when Professor Hall introduced "The Educational Policy of the Movement" in a most able way. Those who took part in the discussion admitted there was great apathy from an educational point of view.

At the next conference the subject of "Direct Representation of Co-operation in Parliament" was introduced by Mr. T. W. Allen (chairman of the Parliamentary Committee). There was a good attendance, as a general invitation had been extended to all co-operators interested in the question. Mr. Allen spoke of the need of co-operators being represented in Parliament, and also spoke of the policy endorsed at the London conference. At the close a

good discussion took place, and many questions were put to the speaker. Mr. Allen's replies to the discussion and questions were very helpful to those interested in bringing the question before the various quarterly meetings of societies.

This question of Parliamentary Representation has been brought before the societies, and many of them have decided to contribute to the Parliamentary Fund, but up to the present no local committees have been formed. The matter is, however, under consideration, and no doubt by the time Congress is held local councils will have been formed.

We regret that Cainscross Society has withdrawn from the Association. It was one that helped to form the present district, and we trust that we shall soon have it with us again.

When the next report is submitted, we hope the long-wished-for peace will have become an accomplished fact, and that we shall be able to press forward the claims of the movement.

Owing to railway exigencies, our meetings have been held in Gloucester, under the auspices of the Gloucester Society, to whom we accord our hearty thanks for their hospitality.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward from				By Conferences	23	15	8
1916	34	15	2	„ Committee Meetings	15	6	0
„ Subscriptions from Societies	43	3	11	„ Public Meetings	13	0	8
„ Co-operative Union	22	1	3	„ Delegations	8	12	3
				„ Printing and Stationery	2	4	8
				„ Postages	0	13	6
				„ Advertisement	0	12	0
				„ Audit	0	5	0
				„ Treasurer	1	0	0
				„ Secretary	2	0	0
				„ Balance in hand	31	11	0
	£99	0	4		£99	0	4

R. R. CHAPPELL, Secretary.

No. 2.—BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Watkins (chairman), Ynysybwll.	Coun. J. Llew. Powell, Penarth.
Coun. T. R. Pembro, J.P. (vice-chairman), Blaia.	Mr. S. Godfrey, Blaenavon.
Mr. J. Cowling, J.P. (treasurer), Newport.	„ T. H. Protheroe, Senghenydd.
„ Jno. R. Evans (secretary), Tredegar.	„ Thos. Lloyd, Cwmbach.
	„ David Evans (Western Sectional Board).

The executive have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration and approval the report and balance sheet for the year 1917.

Reports of great progress are made from practically all societies. It is not difficult to seek the reason for such an expansion. We cannot, without blindly ignoring the facts, dissociate it from the war, and the conditions

brought about by the war. The co-operative movement set its face strenuously against profiteering and an unnecessary inflation of prices. But because it has set up great opposition to this great evil it has been maliciously attacked. Private traders have had no scruples in their malicious attacks upon us. Their agitation has met with a degree of success, resulting in the inclusion of co-operative societies within the operation of the excess profits tax. The glaring inconsistency of this imposition is so patent to all as to necessitate no defence. The whole thing is so diametrically opposed to the principles of our movement. This opposition has led to the greatest decision in the history of the movement, viz., the Swansea resolution to enter the arena of politics. We cannot at present estimate the far-reaching effect which such a resolution is going to have, but it is admitted by all the greatest politically thinking minds that it holds immeasurable potentialities.

The action of the excess profits tax and the proposed imposition of income tax has necessitated the most careful consideration, and methods have been devised by which the inflation of such an injustice can best be thwarted. All societies, through the conferences, have been urged to bring the question home to their members, so that a powerful co-operative opinion should back up any future action. The executive have met all the Parliamentary representatives of the area, and have ascertained their attitude towards our movement and the imposition of these taxes. Replies have been particularly favourable, and will afford the association something to work upon at the next Parliamentary election.

In order to put into effect the decision of the Emergency Conference held at London, a special conference was called at Cardiff to deal specifically with the question of "Direct Representation." A paper on the subject was prepared by Mr. T. W. Allen, and was read at the conference. In the discussion on the paper which followed the advisability of contesting as many seats as possible on the local bodies was urged. It would be a very effective way of educating the people in what co-operation stood for.

Among various schemes for after the war development, the one of "Associated Co-operative Laundries" was under discussion at a conference held at Newport. A *résumé* of the paper was sent to all the societies for their consideration. The reports to the association were not sufficiently satisfactory for the matter to be proceeded with for the time being. The question will, however, be again raised at a future date, when probably some definite move in the matter will be made. It is a branch which has proved very satisfactory in many districts, and the geographical and other conditions tend to suggest that the scheme could work with great success in our area.

The question of paramount importance to the success of our movement at present is that of co-operatively educating the rank and file of our members. The subject was one which evoked the greatest enthusiasm and interest at the Swansea Congress. Our movement has now reached a stage when further development must largely depend upon an educated democracy. The association has realised this, and the question was thoroughly discussed at a conference at Aberdare, when Mr. J. P. Davies introduced the subject of the

"Extended Educational Programme of our Movement." Educational committees are being formed in connection with practically every society, and strenuous efforts are being made to carry through to a successful issue a varied co-operative programme.

During the year the association was fortunate in obtaining a visit from Professor Hall. He addressed a splendid conference at Blaina on the "National Co-operative Policy and the National Co-operative Programme." The policy and programme were explained in great detail. The discussion undoubtedly proved helpful to all societies, through their delegates, in giving them a broader outlook and in suggesting to them a sure foundation for all further developments.

In the course of the year new rules, based upon the model rules suggested by the Co-operative Union, were formulated and adopted. These were sent to all the societies, which, previous to their adoption, had full opportunities for discussion and suggesting amendments.

The work of the Executive Committee has been especially strenuous. In addition to arranging various conferences, they have had to deal with many important matters.

The following is the list of conferences held during the year, with the place of meeting and the subjects discussed thereat:—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Speaker.
1917.			
14th April.	Treharris	Annual Report and Balance Sheet and Election of Officers.	—
14th July .	Newport.....	Associated Co-operative Laundry.	Mr. E. Garth, Newport.
13th Oct...	Aberdare	Extended Programme of Co-operative Education.	Mr. J. P. Davies, Blaina.
1918.			
12th Jan...	Blaina	National Co-operative Programme and National Co-operative Policy.	Prof. Hall, M.A.
2nd Feb. ..	Cardiff	Adoption of new Rules. Direct Representation.	Mr. T. W. Allen, C.W.S.

In the early part of the year the association suffered a great loss in the death of their secretary, Mr. John Evans (Tredegar). He had held the position for a period of nine years, during which time the association made rapid strides. He laboured earnestly on behalf of the movement, and the association has recorded in their minutes their high appreciation of his services. Mr. Jno. D. Evans (Tredegar) was appointed his successor.

In the latter part of the year the chairman, Mr. Watkins (Ynysybw), found it incumbent upon himself to relinquish the chair upon his taking up an official position with the Food Control Committee. Keen regret was

Attention has also been given to Whitland Society, in connection with which a public meeting was held on 18th February, 1917, addressed by Messrs. J. Eager (Burry Port) and Saml. Jones (Skewen). The interest shown at this meeting augured well for the future of this small society.

Though these societies have not yet affiliated with the association, we are hopeful that the assistance rendered them in the initial stages will ultimately result in bringing them into the fold.

Educational.—During the year efforts have been made to induce societies to undertake educational work of a special nature, with the result that a number of societies have established separate committees to carry out this important branch of the movement. It is earnestly hoped the remaining societies will follow this good example.

Annual Congress.—We had the honour this year of the visit of the Congress into our district, the effect of which has already been felt by societies in the immediate neighbourhood of Swansea.

From every point of view this annual gathering will rank with any of its predecessors, and will go down in co-operative history as one of the most important Congresses ever held.

The Reception Committee worked assiduously to make it a success, and the delegates at Congress were loud in their praises for the splendid way in which they had been cared for.

The thanks of the movement are chiefly due to the inviting societies, but mention must be made of the splendid support received from all societies in the section.

Full advantage was taken to obtain the services of several prominent speakers during Congress week, and meetings were arranged for parts of the district, with good results.

Owing to exceptional circumstances brought about by the existing war, the district was deprived of the Congress exhibition, but it is sincerely hoped that the authorities will not forget us when the conditions resume their normal course.

Quarterly Conferences, &c.—The annual meeting was held at Swansea on 16th June, 1917, when the foregoing officers and committee were elected. The four quarterly conferences were held as follows:—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Speaker.
1917.			
17th Mar. .	Burry Port . .	Excess Profits Tax	Mr. T. Stroud, Resolven.
16th June .	Swansea	Report of Congress	Mr. J. Eager, Burry Port.
15th Sept..	Trimsaran . .	Co-operative Education . .	Mr. T. R. Williams, Pontardawe.
15th Dec. .	Swansea	Report of London Emer- gency Conference.	Mr. D. Roderick, Carmarthen.

The subjects were of exceptional interest, and the discussions throughout were well maintained.

Special Propaganda.—This feature of the movement has this year been confined to visits from Mrs. E. M. Penny (Sheffield), who delivered two series of lectures, as follows:—First series: 22nd October, 1917, Cwmgorse Society; 23rd October, 1917, Carmarthen Society; 24th October, 1917, Trimsaran Society; 25th October, 1917, Pontardulais Society. Second series: 3rd December, 1917, Pontardawe Society; 4th December, 1917, Craigcefnparc Society; 5th December, 1917, Skewen Society; 6th December, 1917, Resolven Society. The subjects dealt with were:—"What Co-operation Means to the Workers," "Why Women Should be Co-operators," and "Adulteration of Food."

All the meetings were well attended, and the special report submitted to the Executive Committee by the speaker bearing upon the enthusiasm displayed in the district fully justifies the step taken to secure the services of such an eminent co-operator. The societies visited have already lauded their praises of the admirable addresses delivered on the various subjects, and great things are anticipated as the result of Mrs. Penny's visit.

Our sincere thanks are due to those societies which so kindly entertained the conferences during the year; also to those that sent representatives to the conferences, the average attendance being equivalent to 97·5 per cent of the membership.

In conclusion, we would again extend a hearty invitation to the few societies which have not yet affiliated to the association to consider the matter, as we believe that "consolidation" will be our only safeguard in the future.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1917:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance, 31st December, 1916	25	4 11½	By Conferences	26	1 4
„ Subscriptions from Societies	36	15 6	„ Executive Meetings	13	17 2
„ Co-operative Union Ltd.	49	12 4	„ Public Meetings	17	0 4
			„ Delegations	4	8 9½
			„ Delegations—Congress Reception Committee	6	6 2
			„ Delegations—Hours and Wages Board	17	0 8
			„ Delegates—Congress and London Conference	8	10 0
Audited—			„ Stationery and Printing	5	5 6
C. DAVIES.			„ Postages	2	3 6
			„ Rent of Rooms	1	6 6
			„ Honorarium to Secretary	3	0 0
			„ „ „ Treasurer	2	0 0
			„ Audit Expenses	0	8 4
			„ Balance, 31st December, 1917	4	4 6
	£111	12 9½		£111	12 9½

SAMUEL JONES, Secretary.

No. 4.—MID-GLAMORGAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Shad. Williams (chairman), Pontycymmer.	Mr. D. J. Jones (secretary), Cymmer, Port Talbot.
„ Wyndham Edwards (vice-chairman), Cwmavon.	„ John Jones, Ton.
„ L. Thomas (treasurer), Pen-y-graig.	„ R. L. King, Nantymoel.
	„ Brown, Taibach.
	Rev. J. F. Williams, Glynccorrwg.

Conferences have been held as follows :—

Place of Meeting.	Subject.	Introduced by
Cymmer	Mr. May's Paper, Co-operative Societies and Income Tax.	Mr. D. J. Jones, Cymmer.
Maesteg	The necessity of Co-operators being Loyal to the Societies.	Mr. Evans, Manager Maesteg Society.
Abergwynfi	Direct Representation	Mr. J. Johns, Abergwnfi.
Pontycymmer .	National Conference Policy	Mr. E. J. Evans, Pontycymmer.

Co-operation throughout the area has done exceedingly well, considering that we are still in the throes of a terrible war.

Although our supplies are limited and controlled by the Government, societies record increases in membership, trade, and capital. Extensions are held back, owing to the restriction put on building material by the Ministry of Munitions.

A number of societies have plans for extensive extensions to their buildings in readiness to go on with the work when the war is over. Owing to the big influx of new members buildings are congested and activities obstructed.

The conferences were well attended. The papers and discussions were intelligent, and showed that the delegates were keen students of all aspects of social services.

Mrs. Penny (Sheffield) and Mr. R. C. Wallhead toured the area of the association and delivered excellent addresses on the main issues of co-operation.

We regret that local societies do not work up audiences for these lectures in a more efficient manner. The Executive Council can organise lectures from a centre, but the local committees must whip up their members to receive the benefit of the intensive and extensive knowledge of these expert lecturers. Unless we co-operate regarding lectures, much of the money spent on propaganda work will be wasted.

Several societies have children's classes in connection with their educational work; also classes in economics, industrial history, book-keeping, &c.

DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT.

The PRESIDENT: The next item on the agenda is the consideration of the Report of the Central Board. Mr. E. O. Greening would like to say a word on the first paragraph of the report.

INTRODUCTORY.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (London Bookbinders): I want to refer to the passage in which the Co-operative Union announces—and announces wisely, I think—that it proposes to issue a jubilee history of the Union. I want to suggest that that should be done promptly, while some of us are still alive who were founders in the early days. I know of three. Mr. Walter Morrison at that time was an active and ardent friend of co-operation, and is still a sincere and devoted supporter of the movement. Mr. Morrison has had the misfortune to become the richest man in the kingdom by a series of inheritances; but he has devoted himself and the whole of his income to philanthropic purposes. Mr. Robert Applegarth, the veteran trade union leader, is not now in very good health or strength. Mr. F. J. Hole, a founder of the Leeds society, should be better known to co-operators than he is. These three old men should be able to help in the compilation of the history with their personal recollections. Records in those early days were not so precise as they are to-day. Minutes were often kept in penny memorandum books, and committee meetings were often held by the guttering light of a candle; but we had in those days, as we have to-day, great aims and great hopes of lifting Labour out of the thralldom of slavery. You have greater opportunities and greater power now; but with that greater power you have greater responsibility; and if you realise that responsibility you will achieve the great hope of all of us—the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Mr. J. G. STANTON (Great Wigston): Would it not be a gracious thing for this Jubilee Congress to send its greetings to these three old pioneers?

GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

(See Report 2, page 113.)

On the passage in the report relating to the general progress of the movement,

The GENERAL SECRETARY said delegates would realise the difficulties the officials had experienced in getting in the usual returns in time to be included in the report. A general estimate had been made with regard to the retail distributive societies, and this showed that there would be an increase of about a quarter of a million in membership in 1917, as compared with 1916, this raising the membership to $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions. The share capital

showed an increase of about three-quarters of a million, and the retail trade would show an increase of about 20 millions, making the total retail trade about £140,000,000.

Miss E. E. M. ALLEN (Croydon) : Are we satisfied that our progress is as much as it should be? It would have been greater if we had had more co-operation with the Women's Guild. When you refuse the grant to the guild you are not acting co-operatively in that respect, at least.

The PRESIDENT : You will get an opportunity of going into that later.

Miss ALLEN (continuing) : While I congratulate my fellow-delegates on the progress made, I hope that we will presently consider whether we cannot increase still further.

WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

(See Report 3, page 114.)

Mr. T. ANDERSON (York) (referring to the paragraph on "Agriculture and Food Supply") asked if the chairman could tell how much land had been purchased this year. "I am not asking," he continued, "how much we are progressing towards purchasing the land of England; but this is a remarkable report, and the Congress, I am sure, would like to know how much further than this we have been able to go."

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Newspaper Society) : Is not the quarterly meeting of the Co-operative Wholesale Society the place to ask that?

The PRESIDENT : The total purchases of land in England is about 34,000 acres.

Mrs. E. D. HOOD (Enfield Highway) directed attention to the War Loan investments effected through the Co-operative Wholesale Society's bank, and said the movement ought to have the credit for what it had done in the lending of money to the War Loan. We were taunted with having done nothing to help the country, and it should be made fully known that this money (between seven and eight millions) had been invested through the co-operative societies.

Mr. F. JENNINGS (Pendleton) quoted the paragraph, which read : "Suffice it to say that the Co-operative Wholesale Society has demonstrated its adaptability to the changing needs of the times." He thought this strange, reading, in view of the Survey Committee's report, which seemed to be trying to prove that this sentence was not correct and that the Co-operative Wholesale Society had not shown its adaptability to the changing needs of the times. It would be interesting to know whether the Central Board accepted this report on the Co-operative Wholesale Society or whether it was written before the Trade Sub-committee's report.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : This report was supplied by the Wholesale Society, and represents the views of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, but has been adopted by the Central Board. The trade report had not been seen before this was written.

WAR LOAN OR LAND.

Mr. J. PENNY (Sheffield and Ecclesall) : The part played by the Co-operative Wholesale Society with regard to War Loan is exalted in this report. It is very doubtful, from the co-operative point of view, whether it is wise for us to take so prominent a part as we have done in this connection. That does not mean to say that money should be kept out of the War Loan; but it is far more important for the co-operative movement to get hold of the land and develop food supplies and other necessities of life rather than hold war scrip. If the Co-operative Wholesale Society had put this money into land they would not have deprived the Government of the money required, because the private landlords, from whom the Co-operative Wholesale Society would have bought the land, would have put the money into War Loan. The difference would have been that the Co-operative Wholesale Society would have held the land and the other people would have held the paper. That is the sort of finance I want to see brought about. When the war ends there is going to be a financial revolution in this country. I do not say a physical force revolution, because I do not think the people would be able to succeed in that while the Government controls what it does control. We are going to have a financial revolution, though probably not a physical force revolution; and in the state of chaos that is bound to come, the important thing to remember is that those who are producing the food supply and controlling it will have the chance of surviving; and, if there is financial chaos, the important thing will be to hold, not national paper, but the land of the country.

Mr. U. SWIFT (Sheffield and Ecclesall) : I desire to congratulate the movement on the contribution which has been made to the War Loan, showing that we are second to none in our loyalty in this country. Some of us have given of our families and our sons; surely this movement which loves the people will not be behind in supporting this country in fighting for the world's liberty. In this report we are proving our loyalty from our pockets, more than many people do who profess loyalty.

The PRESIDENT : I do not think that it is advisable that we should go into a general discussion. Mrs. Hood puts a pertinent question. With all due respect to Mr. Penny, the investment was inevitable under the circumstances. During the last two or three years we have purchased land at a rapid rate, and this will take some time to develop. We must have liquid assets to deal with in a large business of this kind. It is negotiable, with the State security lying behind it.

Mr. J. JARMAN (Co-operative Secretaries' Association) : The figures in the report for 1915-16 show progress. I want to submit to this Congress that we are likely next year to show a heavy decrease instead of an increase. Our members are, in many instances, withdrawing; our sales are decreasing. I want to put it to this Congress, and through the Congress to the Parliamentary Committee and the Consumers' Council, who are responsible to a certain extent, that the only way in which we can retain the members is that the societies must be in a position to provide the members with what they need.

This can be done by insisting on a new registration, based on the knowledge that these people can get from us as good terms as can be obtained anywhere else. At the present time the knowledge has been withheld from them, and in every possible direction they have been misled into the present position to-day. We want to get over that difficulty. Therefore, until we get this new registration, which will provide that all persons coming into the co-operative movement shall have equal treatment, we cannot possibly make progress. At the present time our membership is restricted; we cannot accept new members. We cannot go forward, simply because we cannot provide the things which our members demand.

FIRST DAY OF CONGRESS.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

On the resumption, after the luncheon interval, the PRESIDENT read the following telegram: "The Sons of Temperance, in session assembled, send heartiest greetings and good wishes in these strenuous times."

The delegates unanimously decided to send a similar greeting in acknowledgment.

AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION.

(See Report 7, page 124.)

On the report dealing with agricultural supply and distribution, the following resolution was submitted from the Manchester and Salford and other societies:—

In view of the fact that the agriculturists are organising themselves and forming co-operative societies, and that such societies would cause overlapping and unnecessary officialism, this Congress calls upon the Co-operative Union to take prompt action to bring about the utilisation of the present machinery for dealing with their produce.

Mr. J. CLEWLOW (Stafford): I must apologise, in the first instance, that someone more closely identified with the agricultural interest has not come forward to move this resolution. Living in a manufacturing town, of course you will realise that we are not daily in touch with the agricultural element. Owing to circumstances that have lately taken place in our county town,

although we are not closely identified with agriculture, we believe that this question is of vast importance, and feel justified in bringing it before Congress to-day. The Agricultural Organisation Society is an organisation, presumably, to benefit the small producers and the agricultural labourers, but when you come to look more closely into its formation you will find that this organisation is backed up by the aristocracy and manœuvred by county officials in the various centres. They come before the people prepared to subsidise organisations in the case of their being run at a loss for the first twelve months. Past experience tells us that this organisation is not content to gather up the surplus produce from the land, but it has established trading communities in direct opposition to our own organisation. We feel that the time has arrived when steps should be taken to bring about if not an absorption of the Agricultural Organisation Society, certainly to bring the affairs and machinery of the co-operative societies for the utilisation and benefit of the agricultural community. I attended a meeting in connection with the Agricultural Organisation Society in our county town. The chair was occupied by a lord. The secretary was a clerk to the County Council. It was pointed out during the discussion that the co-operative movement was in daily communication with 25,000,000 people, and that our turnover ran into £100,000,000 a year. One speaker stated that the co-operative movement as constituted to-day was simply a body of consumers, whose main object was to exploit the producer. In your name I refuted that argument as far as I could. The meeting was chiefly composed of landed proprietors—people who were very much inclined to do charitable actions at somebody else's expense, viz., by Government subsidies. One of the speakers was a lady inspector of the land forces, or something of that description. We pointed out that we have already the machinery and officials, with the consumers' element, prepared to place at their disposal if they would only come in, but they suggested as an alternative that we should affiliate with them. That would be a very impossible position. I do not want to labour this matter, but I do want to impress upon you with all the force I am able to command that this is a matter vital to us at this moment. A great deal of our land is now in cultivation, and this is being cultivated by the rank and file. It is up against us to find an outlet for their produce, and not let it be kept in the hands of the landlord, whose only idea is to enhance the value of his holdings.

Mr. G. W. BROOKS (Burslem) : I desire to second the resolution, for the reason that I attended the same meeting as the last speaker. I saw in it a serious menace to some of our co-operative societies. We were very much surprised when we got there to find we were the only co-operative representatives in Staffordshire at that meeting. There was the chairman of the County Council there and the joint clerk, supported by all the aristocracy of Staffordshire; and I, for one, am curious to discover that they are anxious to push forward the movement we represented. In my opinion we have got behind this agricultural movement, vested interests as acute in Government departments as we have had at any period of the war. We know how Government

departments have been up against us; and this is another movement which, I believe, is an attack on the flank of the co-operative movement to-day. A lady from the Food Department made a statement that it might be necessary, when selling produce, for allotment holders to exchange it for goods. At the same time it is necessary for societies to be ready and willing to assist the Co-operative Wholesale Society to take this surplus produce being offered for sale by institutions.

Mr. R. PEARCE (South-Western Section): As one who comes from Cornwall, I hope the result of bringing this matter before the Congress at this particular time may be to induce our friends in the large towns to have an interest in the welfare of the rural districts. The great question which is affecting the rural districts at the present time is the great possibility of overlapping and competition among societies that the Co-operative Union and the Co-operative Wholesale Society have been denouncing for a great number of years. During the last two or three years there have been in the rural districts already existing distributive societies, and there have been opened out Agricultural Organisation Societies or societies which have accepted the Agricultural Organisation Society's rules. These societies have been established without any reference to existing distributive societies—in one case the distributive society has existed a quarter of a century and covers a large area in the north of Cornwall; and of late years they have done a largely increased business in implements and manures with our farmer members. Now there has been established another co-operative society based on the Agricultural Organisation Society's rules. What we object to is that the society is not prepared to work in union with the existing co-operative society. Now we have two societies, within a distance of two and a half or three miles, competing with each other. We think if there should be an idea of forming a new society, of whatever form, in any locality already covered by a co-operative society, the existing society should be consulted before any steps are taken, thereby preventing any suspicion of competition.

Mr. G. W. ARNOLD (Southwell): The best way to attack them is by making provision for our smallholders. During the last few months I have found that many members of our society are selling to small traders in the town and disposing of a large amount to the Wholesale Society and other retail societies. I think it is about time something was done in this matter. Our small retail societies cannot afford to assist them.

Mr. J. A. EDWARDS (Liverpool): We have to recollect that practically the whole of the operations of the Agricultural Organisation Society are preventing the land coming back to the people, and directly contrary to the wishes expressed by the President this morning. I have heard an intimation that the Board of Agriculture, who are controlling your money as well as the money of non-co-operators, are aiding the Agricultural Organisation Society by providing them with depôts, and when the Co-operative Wholesale Society is in a position to push in these districts they will have a strong opposition, and you will find your money has been used against you.

MR. G. THORPE (Co-operative Wholesale Society) : The object of bringing this resolution before the meeting is in the nature of an advertisement, for the promoters of the resolution have had a favourable opportunity of showing Congress the threatened action of the Agricultural Organisation Society. I want to place before you the exact position. The number of agricultural societies affiliated with the Co-operative Wholesale Society at present is in the neighbourhood of one hundred. Those societies in 1914 took goods from the Wholesale valued at £158,000, but during 1917 they took goods valued at over £1,000,000. During 1914 the Co-operative Wholesale Society took only £25,000 of goods, and in 1917 it was £50,000. So you will see there is great margin to be made up between what the one takes from the other. We want precise and exact machinery to bring the industrial societies and the Agricultural Organisation Society into a position to avoid overlapping, and by this it is hoped to prevent the waste that is going on. The chairman and myself have had this matter in hand for a number of years, and we have been trying, meeting after meeting, to come to some definite arrangement by which this machinery could be adopted; and at the last meeting we had—it was in one of the committee rooms of the House of Commons—we said to the representatives of the Agricultural Organisation Society that the time had arrived when they should put upon the table some concrete proposal. They undertook to do that, and we undertook to state what we would deal in as well as they, and the result was the establishment of the Agricultural Wholesale Society of England. They know perfectly well that the co-operative movement is now in the market and is establishing more societies throughout England, and the Agricultural Organisation Society, not being on a democratic basis, knows perfectly that it does not tend to the landlords' interest. We say to them: "As we do, go on democratic lines, and whatever is left you shall share the profits in your trade." That is the policy that must commend itself to democrats. But let us be careful. The end is not yet; and if we can meet them and prevent this overlapping, as we have done in some cases, we shall accomplish something not only satisfactory to the industrial but the agricultural interests of this country.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY : This matter has been receiving the attention of the Union, and we have protested against the formation of this organisation very strongly. There is an agreement in existence, to which we have adhered honourably. Any question as to the formation of an agricultural society we have remitted to the Agricultural Organisation Society. I have written in the name of the Union protesting against this society being formed, and asking the Agricultural Organisation Society to discourage its registration.

THE PRESIDENT thereupon put the resolution to the Congress and it was carried.

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry) wanted particulars regarding agricultural and distributive societies referred to in the report, but the General Secretary referred her to the details given in the appendix.

CENTRAL BOARD.

(See Report 16, page 132.)

Mr. F. A. GIBBINS (Brighton) quoted a paragraph from the section of the report dealing with the Central Board, which read : " It was stated that to successfully carry out this duty it would necessitate practically one or more representatives from the Co-operative Union on that committee (to look after the interests of the movement from a retail point of view) being in constant attendance at the office of the Parliamentary Committee to deal promptly with matters of importance arising and to bring them before the Ministry of Food." He asked : Has that person been appointed by the Union to attend? If not, why not? And what action has the Union taken in providing that the necessary supplies of food shall be obtained?

The GENERAL SECRETARY explained that the Joint Parliamentary Committee had reported to the previous meeting of the Central Board. He pointed out that these two committees had been set up, one dealing with the wholesale and the second with the retail. The representatives of the Union formed the retail sub-committee, and for some time it was necessary that one of the four representatives should be in London constantly.

Mr. S. F. PERRY (Birkenhead) desired to raise on this report the question of the non-performance of the work of the Labour Department of the Union.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : It is not advisable to raise it now, because the Central Board have agreed to start the Labour Adviser at once.

Mr. PERRY : Cannot we express our dissatisfaction with the failure to get on with the work last year? It is what has not been done that concerns us.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : The Central Board would not have kept the appointment back if it had not been important that it should have been kept back till the present. The difficulties in the way have now been removed, and we expect to get the Labour Adviser into harness by 1st June.

Mr. PERRY : We agreed with what the Central Board decided to do twelve months ago in regard to the formation of a Labour Department. If ever there was a time when societies were in need of expert advice it has been during the last twelve months. What has been the result of the delay? Hours and wages boards have been kept entirely without guidance or knowledge as to what their next door neighbours were doing. Whenever they met their colleagues on the opposite side they were absolutely up to date with regard to any awards given in the country. They knew what conditions obtained here, there, and everywhere, and we were faced with the latest possible information they had, and the latest scales of wages were at their disposal. We feel that our societies have been at a great disadvantage owing to their being without co-ordination. All the advice that can be given should be given to societies to enable them to deal with the labour problems that confront them. We hope that the grass will not be allowed to grow too long under our feet.

Miss E. E. M. ALLEN (Croydon) : May I refer to the last application which was submitted from the Women's Guild for the renewal of the annual grant?

It states in the report that the grant is on terms and conditions made with other guilds. I have heard it stated over and over again that there are no conditions, but that this is only simply a form.

The PRESIDENT : This matter comes up later.

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry) : I take it, if we let this go we can discuss it later on?

The PRESIDENT : I will see that you have a hearing later on.

UNITED BOARD.

(See Report 17, page 134)

Mr. CROWTHER (Guiseley) : I am sorry that the joint meeting of the United Board and the Executive Committee of the A.U.C.E. did not make use of the splendid advantage offered for setting up a committee which would have worked in conjunction with the National Service Department. This would have helped the distributive societies particularly in keeping many of their men. In the future we shall be deprived of a large number. In the West Riding of Yorkshire a similar committee had been set up in the interests of the textile and dyeing industry. We feel that much could have been accomplished by a joint committee working with the National Service Department. In the very near future we shall have to carry on the distributive trade in the country with only Grade 3 men throughout the trade.

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry) : It was stated that a committee has been formed for retaining at least one male in every branch distributive shop. I should like to know whether any information can be given now?

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) : This is an important question, and we so considered it when the application came before the Board. We came to the conclusion that if we had taken part in these negotiations it would have been an admission of the fact that we have more men than we wanted them to take. That is the position we took up.

Mr. U. SWIFT (Sheffield and Ecclesall) : It is stated in the report that a second joint meeting of the United Board and the Joint Parliamentary Committee was held to consider the difficulties of carrying on the Parliamentary representation work. Surely if anything has gone wrong with the works some light should be thrown on the difficulties at this second meeting.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : You will get that in the report.

The PRESIDENT : There will be opportunities of dealing with this in the report later.

CENTRAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

(See Report 20, page 136)

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) moved the adoption of the Central Education Committee's report. He said : I want to say how deeply I feel indebted to education committees and secretaries who, despite war conditions, have kept educational work going steadily and successfully during the winter.

Our thanks are also due to our staff, Professor Hall, Miss E. M. Bradley, and Mr. C. E. Wood. We could not have had such a report but for the courage of the committees, and the ability, skill, and labour of the Central staff. We have had a slight increase in our classes, despite the war conditions: instead of 497 we have had 498—a slight increase! It is more easy to increase year by year at the beginning than when established. In the classes for women, they have jumped from 34 to 52; and among the children there had been an increase in the number from 18,200 to 18,700. Thirty new classes had been started, and were attended by 447 adolescents—that is, people between youth and old age somewhere. There has been a slight increase in the apprenticeship classes. Some of you ought to come in and see whether your society is one of the two new ones. I will not mention names; I will leave it to your consciences. To me, one of the most interesting features are the summer schools, they are so delightful. I happened to be at one—it was held in one of the loveliest vales of Gloucester, in a comfortable house, and surrounded by the warmest-hearted of friends. Some 397 students attended these schools and faithfully kept to their work, and equally faithfully kept to their play when not working—one lady told me to-day that she was going back to a summer school, although she has attended the same class three times. And this has been done at a cost to the Union of less than £100. But why not establish your own summer school, as Lancashire has done. Some societies bought an old farmhouse attached to a gentleman's house, and so higher gentlemen and higher ladies go there now than kept it before. I should also like, in moving the adoption of the report of the Publications Committee, to ask you to support the work of that committee. They are increasing their sales, and would like to increase them further. The preparation of the Congress Souvenir, it was hoped, in future years would take on more the character of a comprehensive review of the co-operative movement and less of the glorification of even such a great and glorious place as Liverpool. Miss Carling, of Plymouth, and Mrs. Davis, of Woolwich, have written a book, "Through Play to Understanding"; and if our co-operative classes are carried out on the lines laid down, some of you greyheads will have your eyes opened. We expect our children to play themselves into knowledge. There is a "Handbook for Committees." Oh, I can give you something better: We gave two lectures to committees last year, and the lecturers still survive. Our work presents the only hope of the realisation of the President's ideal. He told you as co-operators seeking to enter the Co-operative Commonwealth that you can only enter into that kingdom when the people know how to rule that kingdom. We have seen the people of Russia, how they have risen, and how they have ridden almost to national ruin through the fact of national ignorance. I would like to see every nation in Europe ruled by the people and for the people. And because I recognise that rule by the people, the people must be taught; they must be an understanding people, a trained people. If you want to give the people something worthy of the movement, give them knowledge! Build your commercial interests as high as you like,

give the people the power and all the wealth in the world, but if you do not give them brains and the method of using them they will totter and fall.

Mr. F. A. GIBBINS (Brighton) : I think the education committee has done its work well, and I hope it will lead to the provision of a co-operative college where co-operators' children can have the same advantages as the "cashed" class. I suggest that during the forthcoming year they circularise all societies to see if they are not in a position to agree to a penny levy throughout the membership towards establishing the co-operative college. I am quite prepared to support the recommendation of the Union, to ask all societies to create a memorial for our fallen heroes. I am doubtful if that will be sufficient, for it is not a question of only one college, and so I think that although that grant may be magnificent the funds would not be sufficient. If the co-operative movement can get the sanction of a penny levy, which would bring £12,000, there will be a fine nucleus for a fund, and they will be prepared with their plans as soon as the war is ended and not have to wait till then to make plans.

Mr. F. W. BOOTH (Hull) : I want to pay my tribute to the great work of the education committee, and to thank Mr. Rae for his well-timed remarks to our Russian friends. I think our friend in the gallery (Mr. Gibbins) is being led too much by his heart. For 25 years I have been engrossed in this work, and from what I have learned I do not want you to agree to a penny levy, for this is a work which rightly belongs to the State. We are all agreed that we are a tremendous force in the country, but we must not get off at a tangent on this question of education. We want to realise first principles only and not work on this question in a partial fashion. We should make up our minds that education is not to be the battledore and shuttlecock of the nation, but that it must be a national affair. Let us never forget that we want to leave our country better than we found it. This is the great principle of education right away back from the early days; to realise that education is the great lever and force that will make for the upliftment of the people.

Mr. A. MORGAN (Ynysybw) pleaded for the summer school to be continued in Wales this year again. Last year they had nineteen classes carried on by their societies in Wales, but this year he wanted to appeal for the continuation of the summer school in the interests of the societies. He thanked the Central Education Committee for the assistance given in the formation of the week-end school. That was a glorious success, and they were looking forward to another. He hoped the Central Committee would give assistance to an educational committees' association. In the district in which he resided they had no organisation of that kind. They had education committees, but one committee did not know what its neighbour was doing, and they were allowed to move in their own particular way without any assistance whatever and there was a great deal of money used that could be used to greater purpose. He expressed the fear that the Union wanted too much out of Prof. Hall.

Mr. J. NELSON (St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh) expressed appreciation of the work of Mr. Rae and the committee. He wanted to ask, however, if Mr.

Rae did not think that the time had arrived when the co-operative movement could have music supplied for their own songs other than the music they had in the song book for adult co-operators. Splendid as the "Old Hundred" and others were, they were not suitable for the songs co-operators wanted to sing. He also suggested that the committee should incorporate certain songs along with "The Dawn." He thought co-operators did not know "The Dawn" so well as they ought to know it. He thought committees should bring the play before their members, and he also urged the Central Committee to consider the idea of providing a co-operative operetta.

MR. J. W. BURNLEY (Leeds): As a member of a men's guild I should like to say that although numerically weak, spiritually, I believe, that we have been stronger than ever. I feel the enormous importance of the work, and I hope that the Central Committee will lose no opportunity of impressing upon committees the importance of attaching branches whenever possible. I hope that the delegates will at the earliest opportunity establish new branches of the guild where they are needed. The guild meetings gave them an opportunity of discussing questions of vital importance to the movement which could not be discussed in any other way. If the members of a men's guild cannot carry on the meeting successfully let them call in the help of the women. We have tried it at Leeds in our own branch. We have asked the women to come and help us; they have come and swollen our numbers. The meetings have done them good, and have done us good as well. If this is true of Leeds it is true of England, to say nothing of Scotland and Wales. Perhaps during the summer the education committee will consider a selection of subjects which might be discussed at meetings of men and women. By holding these joint meetings there is an opportunity of rubbing corners off. Only the aristocracy of the co-operative movement have been at the summer schools, and they come back full of enthusiasm and give others the benefit of the new ideas which they obtained. I hope that every society, however small, will form some kind of summer school, and thus help us to develop spiritually.

A DELEGATE: I wish to ask a question with reference to educational reconstruction—whether Mr. Rae can convey to us an assurance that they are watching this Bill?

A DELEGATE: I want to ask Mr. Rae, with regard to the co-operative college, is it in the mind of the Central Committee to found a college where individuals may go for two or three weeks or a month?

A DELEGATE: I should like to see some provision made for those not old enough to compete for summer school scholarships.

MR. RAE: Mr. Booth and Mr. Morgan have both referred to the co-operative college. If every male member of the co-operative movement will give us the value of one ounce of tobacco we should have a college very soon. If every voter would see that we put the right person in control of education—locally and nationally—we should have no need to carry on co-operative classes, colleges, or circles. Someone has asked whether Professor Hall is doing too much. We have been very anxious lest he should break down. Mr. Neilson

has asked whether the time has come when we can supply music and tunes in tonic sol-fa. We have a more recent music book than the one containing the "Old Hundredth." We have in our possession some co-operative songs and duets in manuscript, written by us, which we could issue to-morrow if we were prepared to face the cost. You cannot produce music at anything like the cost at which you are in the habit of buying songs. We are afraid to put on the real value lest you should buy "Tipperary" and something else cheaper. Mr. Burnley, of Leeds, has spoken of the work of the men's guilds, and considers that the attendance of the women has improved the meetings. You notice that we have no separate summer schools for men and women; we have summer schools for both. I wish that all co-operative meetings were on the same basis. I have been asked what are we doing as regards educational reconstruction. We are watching it. We have had meetings up and down the country, at which resolutions have been passed favourable to the present Bill. We are rather sore at heart to see the scheme being lopped and lopped, and we are afraid that the next lop may cut it down. Come on Tuesday night to the meeting at Birkenhead and hearten Mr. Fisher up in his fight for a stronger Bill. I am asked what are we to do for those who were too young to go to the summer school? Help them to enjoy themselves at home. Another delegate asks me whether Mr. Fisher has added something to his Bill. I cannot tell you, but I will ask him on Tuesday night. Mr. Fisher will be strengthened in his work if you are present to support him at the meeting, and to give him the backing that he requires.

JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

(See Report 22, page 144.)

Mr. T. E. SHOTTON (Co-operative Wholesale Society) : I only need formally move the adoption of the report of the Joint Propaganda Committee. In doing so, I should like to mention one or two things. The first is the matter of our old and esteemed friend, Mr. E. L. Griffiths, the propagandist agent, who was retiring, and the committee have made up their minds that Mr. Griffiths shall be cared for and seen to in his declining age. He has done excellent service on the Propaganda Committee, and we wish to record our appreciation. The other outstanding feature is the work done in Shropshire and Mid-Wales. You will see from the report also that there are likely to be big developments in propaganda in the London area after the war. We are anxious that in this work there will have to be a very great effort, and the district will have to have every assistance. But as long as we have the war conditions it is very difficult to do effective propaganda work, and we wish you to accept the report as being the best we can do in the circumstances.

Miss E. E. M. ALLEN (Reigate) : May I ask what is being done to render assistance, financial or otherwise, to the rural districts? Are we going to care for them?

Mr. J. BLACKWELL (Gloucester) : I should like to venture to ask if the committee, in their generosity, would be mindful to Mr. Griffiths—who, we are

told, has sent in his resignation—of the long number of years of arduous service he has rendered to the propagandism of the co-operative movement in all parts of the country, seeing that our old friend has arrived at that period of life when he is compelled to take a rest through no fault of his own. I should like to make a suggestion—that he have some remuneration in recognition of his long service for the cause.

Mr. T. MADELEY (Nottingham) : I would like to support the suggestion that the Joint Propaganda Committee should turn their attention a little bit from the towns so as to give a little bit more to the rural districts. The whole of the rural districts are crying out for co-operation. I want to put it to you that there are large villages that co-operative societies have not touched and where the whole of the working-class population has signed documents for co-operative societies to place a store among them.

Mr. H. BRINDLEY (Burslem) : I really believe we should push home this policy in agricultural areas.

Mr. A. E. STUBBS (Cambridge) : We have carried out active propaganda in the rural areas, with the result that we have got men and women agricultural labourers interested, and we can see that when the war is over branches will be started in these places. I should like to see a closer relationship between trade unions and co-operative societies, and to get out and save the agricultural labourer from the tyranny of the landowning classes, the landed squire, and the parson who refuse the men a place to meet in to conduct their business. We in the co-operative movement stand for freedom, and that being so we must stand by the agricultural labourers ; so I hope that in any future propaganda you will not leave the agricultural labourer where he is. If you do, we can do no good with him under the landowning classes.

Mr. SHOTTON, in answer to a question regarding Mr. Griffiths, propagandist, said : The committee have decided to retain the services of Mr. Griffiths and to see to his welfare as long as necessary.

The report was then adopted.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AND PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE.

(See Report 23, page 146.)

Mr. T. W. ALLEN (Co-operative Insurance), on behalf of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, introduced the discussion. He said : From our point of view there are three questions which will shape the fabric and have a permeating effect on the future of the movement : these are food control, Parliamentary action, and the new place given to the women in national affairs. And the last will be most patent of all. Five-sixths of the women are wives and mothers, and either directly as members or indirectly as wives of members are associated with the stores. It is not too much to say they will be the chief factor in consolidating the co-operative position, and they will shape largely the policy and mould materially the future of the co-operative societies. With their new political power they will become the real master

builders, and none will be freer than they from the trammels of corrupt political interests. Our co-operative women have a message for the State, and the movement which we men cannot deliver on their behalf, and until they have full opportunity of delivering this message our work will be but half done. We must recognise that with this new political outlook all statecraft is revolutionised from the moment we admit the principle that both sexes are part and parcel in all that goes to build a nation and mould a state.

The establishment of the food control machine has come so quickly, and with so wide a sweep, that it is impossible yet to visualise it or appraise it as a whole. It has been exposed to the criticism of every class, because it touches every class of the community. It must be confessed that the co-operative movement was among the first to urge State control as a war-time necessity, and in the process it has suffered such daily irritation and inconvenience as to goad and impair the moral of our people and shake the faith of the members in the efficiency of our co-operative organisation. To solve such a vast and difficult problem as the organisation of the food supply of the nation in time of scarcity, maintaining at the same time the entire machinery of an effete and obsolete system of distribution, could have but one end. The nation's food bill, as dealt with by the Ministry of Food, is estimated at £700,000,000, and the co-operative distributive trade for all commodities totals £140,000,000. The movement stands in a relationship of one to seven with regard to supplies, and of one to four in respect of population. Here is the secret of all our trouble; here is the cause of resistance on the part of the "trade" at any attempt to disturb the old order. Government departments are characteristically British in this respect, that they proceed less by foresight than through trial and error. If the Food Ministry had simply stopped at fixing prices to the consumer, leaving it to the traders to survive through ordinary methods of competition or efficiency of service, its task would have been simplified. But it could not stop there. It had to run the whole gamut of the instrument of business, fixing the share of profit for each class of operator, a method which led to the largest possible claim being made by every section for trade and profit. To call in business men was an undoubted necessity; but if it had been left to them, as it was at the beginning, to hold the balance between themselves and the consumer, we should have been in a sad plight. The fact that profiteering has declined in recent months is due to the splendid efforts of the Ministry and the civil servants. Co-operation has been able to play a large part in the Ministry of Food, aided by the Consumers' Council. Although we have suffered a good deal, yet I feel the worst is behind. By persistent effort one barrier has fallen after another and justice cannot long be denied. We have to remember that Justice, like Truth, must be pursued, and we must counsel all co-operators to be vigilant. The co-operative movement has lost no opportunity in any place to serve the consumers' best interests, and we must indeed press more often for such opportunities. We must be capable of flexibility and adaptability. We have a duty to the consumer which we dare not shirk, whatever the cost. Food control will not end with the war, and we shall not pass

through a peace conference from universal depletion to sudden plenty. That peace will bring either an abundance of food or freedom from control is an illusion. We shall take our distresses with us into the future, and none can forecast for how long high prices and scarcity will prevail. Our place then must be at the heart of things, every time and at all times, that we might preserve and claim our own.

That brings us to our final point, the importance and seriousness of our political propaganda. Any organisation which does not develop its defence, that does not create machinery of immunity, must go under. Events do not happen, we have to mould them. An efficient political organisation does not emerge with the wave of a magic wand, but through close organisation. I sometimes feel that we do not realise the immense power we have in our hands as co-operators. We are a great and powerful body, but we are also a great and potential power. If we have truly learnt the lessons of past experience we shall be urgent to shape our movement into a great and powerful body of organised political opinion.

There are three great ideals presently struggling for a mastery. The ideal of all forms of Prussianism, which turns fields into cemeteries, and considers mercy a weakness and peace something to be despised. The ideal of class war ends in anarchy. The ideal commonwealth referred to by our Chairman, which is the application to the field of government and the social policy of the law of human brotherhood. The last must be our choice. There is no better task for us in these days than to pursue it with all our might.

When Mr. Allen concluded, the PRESIDENT intimated that it was proposed to take the report paragraph by paragraph.

MR. F. JENNINGS (Pendleton): I am in the objectionable position of having to offer the most severe criticism of the Parliamentary Committee and to say, for Pendleton, that it is inept and incapable of carrying out its duty or that it fails to conceive what it has to do to organise the co-operative movement for political work. In Pendleton we have a fine town for the application of co-operative politics. In conjunction with other forces—though not affiliated with any party—we feel sure that we could carry our candidate. Having been ripe for years for political action, we have set up machinery. Those other forces met us; but we could not come to an agreement as to a candidate, and we said: Let us refer it to the Labour Party and to our own Parliamentary Committee. That was on 27th December. To-day is the 20th of May, and we are yet waiting—

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know, Mr. Jennings, if I can—

MR. JENNINGS: I was afraid that was coming.

THE PRESIDENT: You will have a more proper opportunity when we come to the page dealing with Parliamentary Representation Committee.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section), on the paragraph of the Parliamentary Committee's report dealing with the position of women under the new franchise laws, said she was anxious that the movement should get the six million women who were enfranchised. The co-operative women had equal rights with co-operative men in respect to shareholding and government.

The constitution of the movement knew no difference of sex. She wanted to see some machinery provided which would secure that all the women would be able to see that their names were on the register. Most of the men's names were on before. The men had had the privilege of citizenship. The time had come to put the women's names on, and unless something was done in our committee rooms we would not have all the women's names on, for there was a mass of men and women whom nothing would arouse. We had to get these names on. It was part of the Parliamentary Committee's work to tell us how to do this. No time was to be lost. A society that had no women's guild should call meetings of the women members and have the whole thing explained, so that the co-operative party would be able to show its strength.

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry) urged that the Parliamentary Committee should have been doing something to counteract the work of the Women's Party that was setting itself out to capture the co-operative votes. The only party that had been counteracting the work was the women's guild. The guild had been taking steps to bring into existence a local committee for Parliamentary work and local work. They had been waiting for a lead from the committee appointed last October, but the work of the local committee was being held up by red tape. That was the only interpretation which could be placed upon the actions of these two committees. "We want an end to that. We want to begin the real spade-work which will establish the Commonwealth spoken about this morning. We want to work with the men; but I notice that when a woman gets up there is a titter——"

The PRESIDENT: No, no! They are really proud to see you.

Mrs. CORRIE (continuing): I believe this work is necessary, and I hope the delegates here from societies which have not yet got their committees set up will go back and get to the work at once. It is necessary, especially when you get the organisers of the Women's Party telling the co-operative women that the movement is subsidised by Parliament because it does not pay the excess profits tax. We are having co-operative women, who should know better, coming to us asking: "Is that true?"

Mr. J. PENNY (Sheffield and Ecclesall): The extension to women of the Parliamentary vote is the most important revolution that has affected this country for a very long time. Politics are going to be put on a new plane; I am by no means certain that the plane was going to be a higher one than we had before. Six million women are going to have the vote. Are these women going to use it progressively or retrogressively? I have been in favour of their having the vote, because they are human beings entitled to vote as much as men, but I am of opinion that the women are going to be a very reactionary force in the country unless action is taken. Women in our co-operative guilds believe in progress—women of the nation do not. I want to warn co-operators generally that there is going to be an angling for the woman's vote. A lot of women will respond to the angling, without thinking things out for themselves, unless something happens. Women have no traditional feeling with regard to the Liberal or Conservative parties or the

Socialist Party, as men have had in the past. I am speaking of the great bulk of women; I am speaking of 5,800,000 out of 6,000,000. There will be 200,000 alive; there will be millions not alert. There is the danger. I do not think that women will be carried away by traditional allegiance to the Conservative or Liberal parties. I do not think that women will be carried forward by the trade-union party. I can see one party going to sweep women into politics—that is the Church party. I am speaking of the majority of people. The Church influence in politics is a dangerous influence. The one democratic body that has a chance of getting hold of women in politics is the co-operative movement. It is our business as co-operators to organise the women forces in order that women may vote progressively for uplifting men and women in the creation of a nobler State.

Mr. J. J. CARDING (Leek and Moorlands): I rise to support this. What has been done at present to organise the women's vote has not been done by co-operative organisations, but by outside organisations. My wife is a guild secretary, and I am proud of it. I sometimes see the copy of a journal representing Englishwomen called *Britannia*, in which I notice there are statements showing that various political bodies have begun to move. Even the religious bodies are trying to draw women's votes in a certain direction. The only pamphlet I have seen is one marked No. 4, which I hold in my hand, entitled "Women Co-operators and the Vote," issued by the Liberal Co-operative Committee, and is signed by J. C. Carroll. What are we doing? Whilst the Parliamentary Representation Committee are squabbling other organisations are moving. That has always been the case with our so-called progressive Union. Let us have less squabbling and more work. The women will not make the mistakes which the men have made. Mr. Penny has told us that out of 6,000,000 there are only 200,000 intelligent women. It is not a laughing question. Many men have had for years the vote, but have never realised the value of the vote which they have been called upon to exercise. What is wanted is more education. Let us treat this as a serious matter and get a move on.

Mr. E. WHITELEY (Manchester and Salford): The dangers that are referred to are real, and not imaginary. I have had the opportunity of speaking to women's guilds in various parts of the country with respect to the work of co-operative organisation, and in every part the women's guilds are ready and willing to work, but they do not get the support of the men. The desires are set forth, not only by women's, but by men's organisations. I want to make one point clear that will be of use to women's guilds and to all of us throughout the length and breadth of the land—There is no movement so complete as the co-operative movement for making a complete political organisation. I hope you will put women on committees, for they are anxious and willing to work; and when you do form your committees, I suggest you should allow to them facilities for taking the lists of the names and addresses of the members and having them allocated to the members of the committees. If they will do that, then they will get the opportunity of organising the co-operative vote. The Parliamentary Committee will have something

to say where co-operative candidates are to be elected; and that is where the strength of our movement is going to be, either to put a man in or to keep a man out.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

Mr. H. J. MAY: I am not going to take up the time allotted to me in moving the following resolution. It is simply one allotted last year:—

That this Congress reaffirms its previous resolutions as to the injustice of the application of the excess profits duty to the ordinary operations of co-operative societies, expresses its profound dissatisfaction with the present position of this question and the attitude of the Government towards it, and strongly supports the Parliamentary Committee in the continuance of its efforts to obtain relief for the movement from the unfair burden of this duty.

If you will turn to the report you will see there the result of the effort made in this direction during the past year, and also Mr. Bonar Law's reply. He said: "I am not going to be sympathetic. Frankly, I do not agree with the case which you have put. In a war with a general tax of this kind, it is obvious that there must be inequalities. As far as I can speak, I could not consent to go back on what has been done. As regards the tax as it stands to-day, it is open to revision, which can be raised in the House of Commons when the time comes. So far as I can judge, looking from the point of view I have put to you that there is a great war on and that you ought to contribute something, what I ask you to do is not unfair from that point of view. It has been stated that what has been done by the Government as regards the excess profits duty will prejudice the income tax question. This is an exceptional tax, and nothing done with regard to it can be regarded as prejudicing any question after the war."

The resolution is therefore justified by the march of events. During the past year I have had the honour—I am not sure whether it is a privilege or a pleasure—of answering some severe criticisms on this matter, on behalf of the committee; and we have been assured, on behalf of every responsible Minister who has touched this question, that the excess profits duty is one imposed in an emergency and for the period of the war, and one that nobody, Chancellor of the Exchequer or others, would see the possibility of carrying on after the war. During the last few weeks it has begun to be increasingly evident, in view of the ever-increasing national debt and the looming in the future of tremendous burdens of taxation, that the Government are indicating clearly their intention to definitely continue this excess profits tax after the war. Therefore we are justified in coming to you this afternoon and urging upon you that there is a danger, unless we are more vigorous in our action than we have been, of this tax ceasing to have the character which Mr. Bonar Law says it has. The tax threatens to become a menace to our movement, an attack on our trade, and a permanent part of our fiscal

system. There is another point I should like to emphasise to-day, and that is with the burden of debt that is being built up and the menace of taxation in the future. There will be an attempt made in the British House of Commons to shift these burdens from other shoulders and put them on the shoulders of the workers in a more effective manner than before. There is one other point, and that is that relief must at least be secured from the ever-increasing levies on capital. We put it forward immediately that tax was imposed that the levies on increased capital should not be made on co-operative societies, as the Board of Inland Revenue had previously decided, namely, on the basis of increased numbers, but—as applied to any other trading concern in the country—by the actual aggregate increase of capital. The Union took the matter up again after a well-known judgment by the Commissioners, but the Inland Revenue authorities refused to allow the contention, and stated that a legal point was involved. A few weeks ago, however, the considered—and it was a considerable advance—that, as a measure of justice, these levies on capital shall be calculated for co-operative societies on the same bases as for traders, and that any accumulated payments made during the imposition of the tax shall be refunded on proper application being made.

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton) : A number of us who have been attending the Congress for the last few years are getting a bit tired of the blocks put in the way of resolutions of this kind, but I think we ought to give credit to the Parliamentary Committee for having stuck so well to their task. We, as secretaries, have maintained right from the outset that it was a rank injustice, particularly on co-operative societies, when the Government levied the tax, because a co-operative society does not, and never has, made profits—they are deferred discounts. I cannot see for the world why co-operative societies are differently taxed. A word of warning was given to societies to be careful in regard to what they did about their capital. There may be another War Loan, he said, with the result that there may be a doubling of the capital in the movement. In our own society, at Bolton, for the second accounting period, we paid £2,700, and for the third we had a liability of over £4,000! But, I am pleased to say, we never paid that. When the new computation arrived the whole of the figures were gone into, with the result that led us to demand the old £2,700, in addition to which the liability of £4,000 was changed into a credit of over £500, which in 1918 will aggregate a credit of £12,000 into a credit of £18,000. It is a very important matter. We want the societies to rearrange the whole of the calculations right back to the first accounting period and the pre-war standard. Co-operative societies have been mulcted in very large sums of money. We do not make profits, so why charge excess profits? We must again urge on the Government the withdrawal of the co-operative movement from the gross injustice of these conditions.

Mr. F. H. WEST (Plymouth) : We claim in the West of England to be a progressive society. We have got 56,000 members—58,000 now—and they

are agreed, almost to a member, that we refuse to pay the tax. The authorities have demanded £26,000 at present, but we have not paid a halfpenny of it. We have suggested to the Prime Minister himself that if he wants this tax he had better come and collect it from the individuals himself. Up to the present we have not seen him. And when you get such eminent counsel as were engaged by the Plymouth Society, and they proved to you the injustice that was being done to the working classes—I say it must be removed! It is up to us to show a united front and demand our rights. If you noticed, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke on the matter he never came to the real point. We have proved it by counsel engaged that the tax is unjust; and I know it is unjust to the working classes. It is up to us, then, as a co-operative movement, to kick against this injustice for all we are worth. The Government want money, and they are not particular where they get it from. What we say is that the tax should be put on the shoulders of those best able to bear it.

Mr. MAY, answering questions, said: Mr. Bentley's remarks were very helpful, and the matter he mentions, although it has never been forgotten. I will bring it before the committee again and have it emphasised on future occasions. If you will examine the quarterly report of the Union you will find it put in again, but next time we will have it underlined and put capitals on it. The Leeds Society is well represented here; well, it has taken this question up since the alteration was made and received a rebate of £14,435. I hope that will prevent our friends from saying "It was not worth the candle." I would advise you also not to shout too soon. Our Welsh friend has been telling us that nobody has come near his society yet. He had better not let the Chancellor of the Exchequer hear that, or he will send somebody yet.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

THE DATUM PERIOD.

The Congress next passed to the discussion of the "datum period."

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) moved the following resolution:—

That this Congress strongly protests against the continuance of the "datum period" in the schemes of control of foodstuffs adopted by the Ministry of Food; it declares that such a basis of distribution in the present crisis is contrary to the interests of consumers, and calls for its immediate abolition. Further, it demands that the control or rationing of any article of food shall be immediately followed by the registration of customers with retailers and the registration of wholesalers, in order that available supplies may be equitably distributed.

Mr. Charter said: I do not think it needs any words of mine to make you give an unanimous vote on this question. The President has pointed out not only the difficulties we have been against, but went fairly closely into

detail as to the attitude of the vested interests when they get to work in opposition to the co-operative movement. And, take it from me, as well as from the Chairman, that we have had two or three years' acting as far as we can, and as well as we can, on your behalf in order to fix the Government on this fact, but wherever we went the vested interests were there all the time and every time. Pressure was brought to bear on the authorities, and we are now promised that the datum period will be abolished as regards some articles; but still the supplies in some years will be the basis upon which our supplies will be drawn; and if this is a different way from the datum period I fail to understand it. The membership of co-operative societies has grown greatly, and they have kept their prices down, while the private traders were making fortunes on their large surplus stocks; and yet the supplies of essential commodities are to be based on this datum period! If we can abolish the principle of the datum period we get rid of 75 per cent of our trouble on the food question. Look at the sugar legislation and the Co-operative Wholesale Society. One quarter of the population of Great Britain is registered with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and our opponents saw this; and do you think they were going to allow a quarter of the distribution of food to go through co-operative channels without a fight? Believe me, they do not intend to do it. If you have any doubt on the feelings of our competitors in regard to what has been done, read some of the trade journals. I hold in my hand a copy of the *Grocer*, which gives some idea of what some of our competitors think of co-operation generally. I want to tell you of the insidious way they have in circulating their gospel. There is a letter from a member of the Tea Executive, in which he deplors the fact that the Co-operative Wholesale Society have been allocated a certain quantity of tea, and cries in the name of the small shopkeepers who have to pay income tax on their trade. But he is not a small trader. He is on the Tea Executive and the manager of one of the largest multiple shops in the country. This is how attempts are made to keep back the co-operative movement. I want this to be my final word. It appears in a recent issue of the *Food Journal*:—"One of the supreme lessons of the war is that the will of the individual must be subordinated to the will of the community." I ask you in this sense to tell the Government from this Congress that we require that all essential food shall be properly rationed, and that there shall be a registration of customers, which will free co-operators from the fear that they will not get as much in the stores as elsewhere.

Mr. T. W. ALLEN (Co-operative Insurance), seconding the resolution, said: I have a communication which, I think, will shorten the discussion. It has been represented again and again to the Ministry of Food that the co-operative movement suffered materially owing to the datum period system of indenting. Our societies have been asked: Why is it that food is obtainable at various private traders' shops and not at the co-operative society's shop? The answer to that is a very simple one. To attempt to feed thirteen millions with food enough for ten millions leads to chaos and shortage. That has

been our position because of the operation of the datum period system. We have suffered in another direction, because co-operators themselves have discovered a new loyalty to their own organisations, and the societies to the wholesales, since the war began. We have made something like three-quarters of a million members since the war began. That meant three million more units to provide for, and that has been the root of our dislocation. That has been impressed upon the notice of the Ministry of Food, and I am happy to have a letter from Mr. Clynes which he has given me for this Congress. It reads as follows :—

“ Dear Mr. Allen,—It would have been a great pleasure to me had it been possible to attend the Co-operative Congress, if only for a very short time. I have not been able to devise any means for getting to Liverpool consistent with other duties which have imposed a prior claim upon me. I would like to assure you that I am conscious of a number of food control committees having failed adequately to meet the views expressed by Lord Rhondda and myself that these committees should avail themselves of the experience and ability of co-operative representatives in the work to be done by the local food committees. The more a system of rationing is extended, the more necessary it will be that such service should be used, and that the confidence of the consuming public should be increased by adding co-operative representatives to the committee.

“ I conclude that what we have been able to do on the subject of tea will go far to remove the admitted grievance of co-operators with regard to that article, and I look to the rationing of any other article of food to be on the basis of registration of consumers with retailers, the registration of retailers with wholesalers, and the equal distribution of commodities according to revealed requirements, and not according to any ‘datum period.’ The datum period or other devices meant as temporary measures can no longer be justified after the experience acquired and in view of the fact that our rationing system must last a considerable time even after the war is ended. We wish to give no advantage whatever to private trading enterprises compared with co-operative organisations, and as the services of co-operators, discharged in the interests of consumers and not for the purposes of making profit, have been acknowledged in the most responsible quarters, I trust that the relations between co-operative organisations and the Ministry of Food will in the future be much improved. We should be fair to private traders, and see that necessary services in food distribution are reasonably paid for, and I am satisfied that this can be done, not only without injury to co-operators, but by using to the full assistance which co-operative organisations are prepared to give.—Yours sincerely,

“ (Signed)

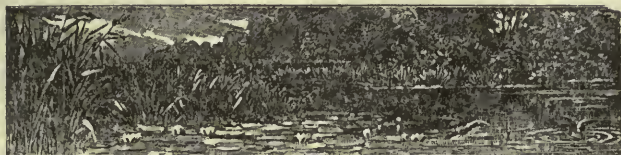
J. R. CLYNES.”

Mr. Clynes (Mr. Allen continued) is a man who, I believe, will not flinch from his sense of duty, whatever powers may be brought against him; and I believe we may pass this resolution without further discussion.

The PRESIDENT: Those in favour of the resolution moved by Mr. Charter say "Aye." The "Ayes" have it.

After the General Secretary had made several announcements the Congress rose for the day.





SECOND DAY OF CONGRESS.

TUESDAY, 21st MAY, 1918.

MORNING SITTING.

The PRESIDENT, in opening the proceedings, said : We have a long programme before us to-day, and plenty of room for discussion. I trust that it will be carried on in the same good temper as on Monday and that the result will be satisfactory at the end of the day's proceedings.

THE SCOTTISH SECTION ELECTION.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : The Central Board held a special meeting at the close of Congress yesterday, and decided to recommend a settlement of the difficulty in the Scottish Section on the following lines :—

(1) That the nine candidates who had received a clear majority of the votes cast should be declared elected.

(2) That the thirty-four societies referred to should be written to asking for the names of the persons for whom they had voted as recorded in their minute books.

(3) That Congress be asked to agree to these recommendations, and that the vote be taken amongst the Scottish delegates only.

(4) That when the information has been obtained, the scrutineers go carefully over the replies and votes received, and that the whole result of the voting for the Scottish Section be thereafter published in the *Scottish Co-operator* and the *Co-operative News*.

The PRESIDENT : Are you prepared to accept the recommendations?
(Cries of "Yes" and "No.")

On being put to the vote it was decided that the matter should be settled by the whole of the delegates voting. This vote resulted in the recommendations being negatived.

The PRESIDENT : As the decision of Congress has gone against the recommendation of the Central Board, a new voting list will be sent to the Scottish societies.

THE EXCLUSION OF CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS.

Mr. W. E. DUDLEY (Co-operative Wholesale Society) : The resolution I have to move, in the name of the Parliamentary Committee, reads as follows :—

That this Congress enters its emphatic protest against the practice of the Ministry of Food in scheduling certain channels of private trading enterprise as the only means of supply to the exclusion of co-operative organisations, thus compelling our societies to place their orders with private profiteers to the financial detriment of their own federations, and in direct conflict with their established principles as organisations of consumers.

You will notice that there are three points in the resolution. The first one is, the exclusion of co-operative organisations ; secondly, our financial detriment ; and, thirdly, the whole is in direct conflict to our principles as organised consumers. I believe myself that we should have some mark of regret in having been forced to move a resolution of this type at this period. In the first place, I am going to introduce this question by telling you perfectly candidly where I stand. If it is a feature of strength I am going to admit it, and where it is a feature of weakness I am going to tell you quite candidly. Whenever we have gone to the Ministry of Food the question presented to us has been : " In pre-war times did you serve the whole membership through the Co-operative Wholesale Society ? " What have we to say ? Whose fault is it we have not done so ? We must realise, friends, that we have displayed our weakness as co-operators when claiming to be co-operators. When we come to look at the question directly we find that the Government, and the Ministry in particular, are in this position. Whether they like it or whether they do not they have to co-operate as a community at the present time. If you want to co-operate you want to look for the main channels of organised consumers in existence, and to utilise them to the advantage of the greater number. In asking that all trade should be put through co-operative channels for co-operative purposes I mean this : Our organisation has been placed at the Government's disposal ; we presented to them all our forces, and put all our agencies at their command, but the people influencing this business were the " invisible Government " referred to by our Chairman. Our position is in a nutshell. The Government have had to create many channels and bring them into existence. For this one purpose why did not they take our channels and utilise them ? We did not want to monopolise them, but only to help the Government. We want to be reasonable whenever we present our case. We put ourselves in this

position, when we came to this problem we did not find one wholesaler and one broker, but we found a first wholesaler and a second wholesaler, a first and a second broker, with the result that the Government did not know where it was when attempting to maintain this type of institution. If this had been passed through a co-operative channel we should have found ourselves in a position of a clear straight course. We are not claiming anything but to safeguard the nation's interest. This channel has been adopted by every other country, including Germany. In this country we are told to expect more liberty. We are fighting for liberty here. Our enemies have been entrenched and hold a very strong position. In this resolution I am asking you to do no injustice to anybody; we are asking you to defend yourselves, and the Government to do its duty to a great body of consumers it professes to represent. We are the most economical channel through which the produce can be passed. I ask you to accept this resolution unanimously. We are merely claiming our rights, and are not seeking to cause detriment to others. We are asking for something which ought to be supported by all in favour of a fair-minded Government.

Mr. W. LANDER (Co-operative Wholesale Society) : I rise to second, with mixed feelings of disappointment with the co-operative movement, because of the lack of action before now. I begin to think that if co-operators do not rouse themselves and wake up there will be no co-operative movement left at all after the war. Even those whose interests are against us are sufficiently strong to extinguish us. I speak from intimate knowledge of what there was before the war. I take this morning. We get our newspaper and what do we find? Labour can get a column and a half report and the co-operative movement is limited to about a dozen or fourteen lines. Do we not represent Democracy? Have we any right to be snubbed in that way? Who buys the papers that snub you? I tell you candidly that one of the most vital things to come before Congress this time is the interference with you as a co-operative movement. At the very beginning of the war we offered our great movement to the Government, stating that we had got the machinery and would save the country millions of money if our offer was accepted. But no; the War Cabinet have decided and instructed the heads of various departments that the ordinary channels of trade are not to be interfered with, so that they could resume after the war. I am a member of one or two reconstruction committees. Well, here is your chance for reconstruction before the war is over; as simple as possible. But no, everything has to go through the ordinary channels. Take the buying of corn. The co-operative movement has to pay threepence to the man who is a broker; another man has the distribution of that, and he gets threepence a quarter. That was sixpence a quarter, and neither men had handled anything but a piece of paper. The Government had decided to give to the English farmer, for home-grown wheat, 1s. 2d. a quarter for the self-same that he was asking 1s. 1½d. and less for before; and so it is going on. Many of you know my views on politics. We are on dangerous lines and ought to go slowly, but by financial and commercial

interests, they are two great mediums. Let us go together in one united, solid block and break the lot down and clear the way.

Mr. W. J. DOUSE (Nottingham Printers) : The two preceding speakers have pointed out that the Government are endeavouring to fix upon you and me, who represent the co-operative movement, the badge of slavery. Can anything more monstrous be conceived? The co-operative movement is one that should be taken into consideration in all matters of the distribution of food, and my object in rising this morning is to urge us to rise in the majesty of our dignity of manhood and womanhood and make it clear to the Government that we are absolutely determined that justice shall be done to the glorious co-operative movement.

Mr. A. C. BURN (North Metropolitan District) : The reason why we are in the position we are to-day is that we are flabby, split-up, and divided. It is because we are so careful, so tender, in dealing with those who govern this country in their own interests and welfare, that class which owns the wealth of the country secures the same class to govern for them. A transformation is taking place, and we have got to separate ourselves from old associations and build up anew. We must not follow altogether in the footsteps of our fathers, but strike out on new lines. We live in a glorious country, with its own magnificent ships to bring food across the seas, and, properly cultivated, this country of ours is capable of feeding, clothing, and housing twice the number of people that there are to-day. The great weakness of the co-operative movement is that you are divided; and when they see the workers' weakness they divide you and split you up. Be men of courage; stand true to the noble principle for which this co-operative movement stands. This Government does not fear you, because you are so tender, because when you go into politics you send the master class. Send your own class. Recognise that not only have you to look after the welfare of this country, but you have got to emancipate our own class. Mr. Douse says we are slaves. Well, we have nothing to lose but our chains that have enslaved us for centuries; and yet it is our own fault. We possess the right, if only we recognise the duty to ourselves, to our country, to be men, to be courageous, and to stand for liberty and freedom.

Miss E. E. M. ALLEN (Croydon) : I should like to support the resolution and I should like to urge that, instead of going, as the previous speaker said, warily, carefully, and slowly, we should take a step or two more heartily forward. You can go too slowly, and if you men cannot go a little faster we women will. What can you do with two-thirds of the Food Control Committees in the hands of the traders? We want more women on these committees. In the report you have a list of co-operative representatives on Government committees, and how regrettable it is that Mrs. Cottrell, who is on the Consumers' Council, is not mentioned. The Co-operative Women's Guild she is representing and I bear testimony of her, and we should give credit where it is due.

Mr. W. GALLACHER (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) : With all that has been said denouncing the Government I am in hearty agreement. We

have not been treated fairly, and I would like to know if you expected to be treated fairly. Mr. Lander has talked about the Press, but I tell you the Press loves the co-operative movement no more than the Labour movement, although they treat them better. A Manchester daily paper has an editorial to-day which is addressed to co-operators, and it is not a Whitsuntide message. It is a condemnation of your attitude in not doing your fair share by paying income tax on your dividend. When the war began to affect the food of the country the Government gathered round a whole host of advisers. Maypole Dairy, Lipton, and the big multiple firms were all represented. (A Voice : "Devonport.") Yes, Devonport was then the Controller, so he was well represented. The Government have gone to these people and they did not know the first thing about co-operation, and they had no idea of its ramifications and were confused as to its functions. What could you expect from them? Lord Rhondda is not a co-operator, although I think he has been willing to give us fair play; but behind him is the War Cabinet. Can you find any co-operators there? The Consumers' Council was formed to give advice to the Ministry of Food, and six co-operative representatives were appointed to this body. Mrs. Cottrell's name is not in the book because she was not appointed by the Parliamentary Committee. The unorganised consumers are represented by a lord, a countess, and a knight. Pity the poor unorganised people! We have been very largely responsible for the speeding-up of the question of rations. We have dealt with tea, butter, sugar, and meat, and we have kept down prices and prevented many things being done that would have been done. We have gained valuable inside knowledge and seen how things are being done—and how you are being done; and we have gained this valuable knowledge, that on a Food Control Committee one co-operator could do a great deal of good. Mr. Allen, as vice-chairman on the Commission, has done a great deal of valuable work for you, but if you want justice you must have a seat in the place of power. If you had not been so Scotch and cautious—and Scotland has been leading in this matter—you would not now have so much pleading to do and you would have come into your own.

The PRESIDENT put the resolution to the Congress and declared it carried.

Continuing the discussion of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee,

Mr. J. SHARPLES (Blackburn Industrial) asked: Have you any further information to give us with regard to the military position of key men? We want, he said, all the advice we can get.

Mr. F. H. WEST (Plymouth): Are you satisfied that the co-operative movement is getting the same treatment from the Ministry of National Service as private traders are getting with regard to the release of men?

POLITICAL ACTION.

Mr. U. SWIFT (Sheffield and Ecclesall), turning to the paragraphs dealing with political action, said: I want to enter a protest here, as a sincere co-

operator, against the direct instructions to the co-operative movement to enter into political action, and furthering it by the paragraphs in this report which are under discussion. I feel sure that, though you may not agree with me, I shall get a democratic hearing. This movement hitherto has had an open door wherein all might enter, whatever their religious or political opinions might be. There has never been a political test imposed upon anyone who sought to enter the movement. I speak as one who does not come under the whip of Mr. Allen. I have always been sincere and have always done all that lay in my power to direct the purchase of supplies into co-operative sources. What we want is that our efforts should be directed to the objects for which we were established—the extension of co-operation into the productive field by the loyal support of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ million and accumulating number of members who are making this a national movement. The failure, if there be failure, is due to the disloyalty of members and to committees running outside the proper spheres for supplies. Seeing that the co-operative movement has no political views, and never can have political views in unity, because we have within our body an unknown amount of political opinion as varied as the constituency itself, we can never have direct representation, because there is no machinery within the movement which can attract a candidate to stand; and if a candidate stands there is no constituency in this country in which co-operation is the dominant factor that would determine the election. My friend says “Question.” We have had one example at Prestwich. You cannot find fault with the candidate there, or with the forces that were with him. Ten societies, with 13,000 members, in a combined effort with the political Labour party and the co-operative machinery of the Union and all the forces they could bring. It has produced the soundest lesson we have had against political representation. What I appeal for is this, that there lies before co-operation a path wherein progress can be assured, and if you seek to split up the movement, or to muzzle the views of others—

The PRESIDENT: Whatever our individual opinion may be as regards political action the last Congress decided about that. It will not be competent to discuss that.

A COMPLAINT FROM PENDLETON.

Mr. F. JENNINGS (Pendleton): I want to start on the five minutes I earned yesterday. As I then said, on 27th December last year the Labour Party and ourselves came to an agreement—the Labour Party, the Society, the N.U.R., the A.S.E., the General Workers' Union, and the Carpenters and Joiners. I want to mention these so that there need be no one imagining that there was some single organisation in this. We came to an agreement that our own Parliamentary Committee and the Labour Party Committee should arbitrate as to who was the better qualified to undertake the task of testing the West Salford Division. It is the 21st of May to-day, and we have not yet received from Mr. May any intimation of what decision they have come to in the matter. We have received from the Labour Party

intimation (in our quarterly meeting) that the National Labour Party say they have attempted to raise this question two or three times with the Co-operative Parliamentary Committee, but the answer is that they have no time to go into this because of other matters. What has happened in our own town? I do not blame these working men who want to get on, because vested interests are working night and day to queer the pitch. Our people have no time; and we are deserving of what we get, because those we elect are so dilatory in carrying out the things that are essential and we ourselves get disheartened. To have a society like ours, ripe for two or three years, and, as president, to have to stand and face the members and to be told what the position is, is not creditable to us nor likely to create confidence among the inhabitants of the borough as to our ability to govern the nation when we cannot govern ourselves. I know what the reply will be. That is no answer as to why we have not been informed as to what is being done. We have an electoral committee; we have our programme marked out; we have a candidate worth fighting for. Never mind Prestwich. Those in the neighbourhood of Prestwich know most about it. I hope the Congress will speak in no doubtful voice to the Parliamentary Committee—I mean in no uncertain tone. If there is somebody in the Central Board standing in the way let us know. If the Parliamentary Committee are not prepared to get on then let them get out.

MR. E. WHITELEY (Manchester and Salford): I desire to say a word on the Prestwich election, which is referred to in the report. Many references have been made to that election, and as one somewhat actively engaged during the contest in the constituency I want to say a word or two in respect to it. I think that it is important that, as this was the first election, so far as the co-operative movement is concerned, we should realise the exact position with respect to such a contest. The Prestwich election was fought under difficult conditions. The whole Press of the country, even a respectable journal like the *Manchester Guardian*, was against the party and candidate. The whole organised political parties were against the candidate in the contest. I do not say that they were not perfectly right in that position. I want you to realise what you will have to contend with in the future. The co-operative movement has to build up a party of its own, and not lean on any other political party or Press in the country. I want to say a word or two with regard to those who worked; I want to give credit to one organisation which is going to play an important part in politics as far as the co-operative movement is concerned. I refer to the Women's Guild. If it had not been for the active women's guilds in the surrounding districts we should not have had the result we had. That result stands to the credit of the co-operative movement. There is no political party in existence with such a good result in its first election. We only had our candidate in the constituency on the nomination day, and there was one week to do the work required. Another important factor is that over 200 societies throughout Great Britain contributed to the election fund at Prestwich. (A Voice: "Where was the Labour Party?") I am not dealing with the Labour Party. Those anxious

to defend the Labour Party can deal with it in its proper place. With respect to the feeling which existed in many circles, I think I know about as much of the political movement as anybody. We have big difficulties to face at the present time. We have not a committee I am satisfied with. It is for you to decide who is going to conduct the negotiations in the future.

Miss C. EGERTON (Failsworth) : As one of the women appointed on the candidates' council at the Prestwich election I should like to say that at the next election the Central Board has a great responsibility placed upon it. We shall be electors at the next Parliamentary election, and if the Parliamentary Committee does not "ginger up" they will have a lot to answer for. Women would be a great power in the movement. We are not going to allow the grass to grow under our feet. Women have suffered too much during this terrible war. I would like to see the Parliamentary Committee take this question to heart. If they do not sharpen up there will be a great deal to answer for.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Mr. R. STEWART (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) : The resolution which I have to propose is one of the most important of all the resolutions. It is not a resolution which has been drafted and submitted by the committee, but it is one which was sent in, consequently the committee agreed to put it to you here to-day. The resolution reads as follows :—

That this Congress declares its firm adherence to the principle of a League of Nations as a guarantee of the world's peace, and hereby adds to its programme of political policy the promotion of such an alliance of all the peoples.

We have in the past submitted resolutions of peace, and these are always adopted with the greatest acclamation. With the tragedy existing to-day I can sympathise with the feeling abroad. We know that many of the things which have been perpetrated to-day have horrified the civilised nations. We know that many of the deeds perpetrated were condemned as outraging all the decencies of modern warfare. As a nation we have clean hands in connection with this war. I think that this resolution is very suitable to come before us, more especially at a time when we are celebrating, very quietly, our jubilee of the Co-operative Congress. A jubilee is a time of rejoicing, but there are too many sad hearts at the present time, and too many homes are clouded over. The formation of a League of Nations will be one of the grandest pieces of work that the Co-operative Congress has every accomplished. We are one in heart and wish to see war prevented. Do you wish to continue it? ("No.") There can be no peace at the present time in the present state of affairs. This is not to prevent us doing something to bring about a condition of affairs when the democracies of the world will be able to grasp the common hand all the world over, and bring about the ideal of which poets have sung—the brotherhood of man. Surely it is not a brotherhood of man if it is restricted to Great Britain. We all meet as one flesh and blood. We

cannot have a brotherhood of man apart from the recognition of all other nations. We now see nations that have been fighting bitterly, opposed to one another in warfare in the past, joined together as comrades in this terrible struggle. In the South American continent battles were fought for years with a great destruction of life and property, until it was realised that if they were to have the welfare of the people properly safeguarded it could only be done by having peace. They set about negotiating for conciliation in settling disputes. We desire to lay the foundation stone for this temple of peace—a temple which will be sufficient to take in all nations of the world. We are told that co-operation knows no barrier or frontier. This is a sentiment which I believe to be true. To carry this to a logical conclusion we cannot exclude a single nation. (A Voice: "Yes, Germany.") Does any one here think that in a League of Nations, if you want peace, you can exclude a nation of seventy million people for all time to come. Let us look at this question from a broad point of view. Germany has perpetrated a great many wrongs on the nations of the world, and I say that Germany has got to pay. This ought not to prevent us from raising up a structure, namely, a League of Peace amongst the nations of the world. The day is dawning when it will bring about that desire, coming from millions of people, that war shall cease.

Mr. T. ANDERSON (York): I am pleased to have the opportunity of seconding the resolution. It was one of the most important resolutions.

. . . Peace hath her victories

No less renown'd than war . . .

says Milton, in his famous sonnet to Cromwell, but peace will only get the victory when men come to recognise war as an evil in every shape whatever, and that the idea of war should be abhorrent to every nation under the sun. What we want, and what every nation wants, to see is that war shall disappear off the face of the earth. Talk of democracy coming into its own; what are its rights? Its right is to govern according to the principles that are good for the common weal. When the day dawns when kings and emperors disappear from the face of the world as an institution then we shall begin to see the sowing of the seed from which peace shall be eternal. I have not a word to say about the King; it is the institution. It is the parasites that are bred round the thrones of Europe that make the trouble. It is the parasites that hang on and spread the disease. These things we ought to be up against in the name of common humanity. By all means let that ideal put forth by Mr. Stewart be uppermost in our minds. If we do that, success will come; but if we try to pick out one man or one nation against whom we are going to keep our hearts turned then the idea of a universal peace cannot and will not come.

The resolution was put and carried.

NATIONAL CARE OF MATERNITY.

Mr. F. J. BENGOUGH (Ten Acres and Stirchley): It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of my society, to move the resolution:—

That this Congress, believing the national care of maternity to be amongst the measures of reconstruction most essential to the well-being of the nation, hereby adds this subject to its programme of policy.

The last resolution was of a very important character, and we say this is quite as important. The best argument I can use is the argument used from our platform yesterday by our chairman and by the representative of the teachers for a new and wider view of education. I am here to say that no matter what the system of education is, when you have not got the material to work on, it is an absolute waste of money. We must have strong and healthy children. What do we find? Look through our slums in our large towns. You study the birth rate and the death rate of Bournville and then go down to Birmingham, and what do you find? A vast difference, caused through the difference in the way the children are brought into this world. When we think that the mother of a child has to go into a factory to earn a living right up to a few days before bringing the little visitor into this world of ours, we hold up our hands in horror at the killing of a few babies by aeroplanes, but we are killing thousands every day under the conditions in which we are forced to live.

Miss BECKETT (Hartlepoons): I second the resolution and recommend it as a business proposition, as it will be better to have useful citizens. We should work on the right side of the stream. We are apt to let the child fall into the stream and spend our energy in dragging it out on the other side. It would be better to spend money in the first case in preventing the illness.

Mrs. G. FERGUSON (Darlington): I feel it needs no persuasion on the part of any speaker to get you to vote unanimously for this resolution. We all know that politics have tended for a good many years to become more and more domestic in their application, and I think no co-operative candidate would lose anything by adding this to his or her political programme. I think it would appeal very strongly to every individual worker, and more especially would it appeal to every woman voter who takes part in any coming contest. I think, Mr. Chairman, the need for this is quite obvious. The co-operative movement and other movements have gone in for all those things which make life worth living. But what is the use of good housing and wages—and even the education which our Chairman spoke of yesterday—if you have not got a healthy childhood to make a healthy manhood and womanhood? We have our school clinics, which do an admirable work, and the Insurance Act; but I ask every person: Why should we want a cure for something we can prevent? We want to give the children health to enter the battlefield of life to make them a credit to the nation. We feel quite sure you realise it is of sufficient importance, and that you will see that it is absolutely necessary that we, as workers, should have all the good things with those who are better placed, and that our children should have the same chance in life.

The resolution was carried without dissent.

THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPLY.

Mr. MAY, replying for the Parliamentary Committee, said: I was once a young man myself, and I realised the advantage of basing my case upon the strength of my adjectives rather than upon the accuracy of my facts. As regards the special case mentioned by Mr. Jennings, I wish to point out that, whatever our merits and whatever our faults, it is off the main track of the argument. It is a side issue with which we are not concerned, but for which we have accepted some responsibility. The dispute is whether Mr. Pickles, of Pendleton, or Mr. Davies, of Manchester, should be the accepted candidate for West Salford. The dispute is between the West Salford Labour Party and the Pendleton Co-operative Society. I wish to emphasise the fact that it is the Pendleton Society; and that was not in accordance with the constitution of the scheme which was being run down our throats with such effect during the last six months. It was the Pendleton Society, and not a Local Council in accordance with the scheme. In the same period, during which we have been trying to deal with this case, the society has failed to make good in accordance with the scheme. We received this statement of the case from Pendleton. We did not get our committee constituted till the beginning of December, and we held our first meeting before Christmas. The second meeting was at the beginning of January. We had to make our arrangements with the Labour Party, so as to set up the friendly relations contemplated in the scheme. We did that in the first or second week in January. Following that, and as a result of a conference, we set up a joint committee of three persons from each of the trade unions, Congress Parliamentary Committee, the National Executive of the Labour Party, and our own Parliamentary Representation Committee, to come to an understanding. The first meeting was delayed by the Prestwich election, in which Mr. Jennings took an enthusiastic part—although we seem to have fallen from grace—and that put off the matter from discussion for a month or two. In the beginning of March we had the first meeting of this joint committee, and the whole of the matter under dispute was placed before them. Mr. Jennings states that the Labour Party said we had not time. I do not charge Mr. Jennings with making a false statement to the Congress, but he has misinterpreted the statement made to him. When we raised the question at the first meeting, on 13th March, Mr. Arthur Henderson said: Wait till you bring your whole proposals as to the constituencies you intend to contest. It is not our fault if that is not done; it is the fault of the societies. We have made two appeals, through the Co-operative Press, to societies to send in the names of constituencies and candidates, and we have yet only a miserable list. With regard to this particular dispute, the matter was before the joint committee last week. It is still to be submitted to the Pendleton Society, and Mr. Jennings will probably find the decision in the letter-box when he gets back. With regard to the general question and the progress of the work of the Parliamentary Representation Committee, if he were to attempt to deal with the facts before the Congress his colleagues

would probably accuse him of "washing dirty linen"; and if he did not attempt to deal with them judgment would go against the Parliamentary Committee by default. Somebody spoke about ginger. Those whom you hold chiefly responsible need no ginger from anybody, and they are of opinion that goodwill, a broad and generous interpretation of the resolutions of Congress and of the National Emergency Conference, and a realisation of the nature of the crisis through which we are passing, are necessary to make the machinery work as hard and as fast as anyone may require. So, if you have come here to give anybody ginger, I would suggest you give the ginger to the right horse. With regard to the Military Service question: I have had this matter to deal with for many weeks past. With reference to the question asked by Mr. Sharples, I have to say that we have done everything we know how to do in the matter. We have interviewed the Local Government Board, the Ministry of Food, and the Ministry of National Service day and night and week after week and at all times of the day. With the Parliamentary Secretary, the officials of the trade exemptions, and the officials of the various departments, we have discussed the matter. The resolution demanding the protection of the pivot men was placed before the Prime Minister, and we were assured that it would be given attention. We do not find any adequate regulation for the protection of pivot men. If we work under Form R 49 and get a clear definition of what it does not imply and what it does imply, and do our best for a week to secure the release of men, we find that within the next forty-eight hours the same people are being dealt with by the authorities under another Order, and they are dragged away from the work of the societies. We have tried to protect the needs of the movement and the needs of the nation. Our work has resulted in a number of instructions to tribunals and military service representatives to secure the protection of these men; but if those of the Ministry of Food and the Local Government Board agree that a man has to go, he has to.

The report was now approved.

LABOUR GREETINGS.

The PRESIDENT read the following telegram:—"The annual conference of National General Workers sends fraternal greetings and hearty good wishes for successful deliberations.—J. R. Clynes (President) and W. Thorne (Secretary)."

On the proposal of Mr. G. BROWNBILL (Co-operative Newspaper Society), it was resolved to forward similar greetings.

LANCHESTER FOOD CONTROL.

Mr. R. WHITFIELD (West Stanley) proposed the following resolution:—

That this Congress, representing the co-operative movement, draws the attention of the Ministry of Food to the action of the Lanchester (Durham) Food Control Committee in proceeding by summons

against the West Stanley Co-operative Society, and affirms that the decision arrived at by the bench of magistrates at Lanchester on 2nd May, 1918, constitutes an injustice to that society in particular, and the movement in general, and demands that the decision be quashed. It further orders that a copy of the report of this case, and other similar cases of unjust treatment, be sent to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Food, and requests the Parliamentary Committee to deal with the matter at the earliest possible moment.

He said : I rise with mixed feelings to submit the resolution—mixed in the sense that it is a pleasure to be associated with any endeavour to bring about a better condition of things, and pained to know that after an existence of fifty years it is necessary for us to put up such a vigorous fight to get anything like fair play. I wish to place before you a few facts, which I hope will cause you to give your full support to this resolution. The West Stanley Society has been specially singled out—I wish you to notice that—by the Lanchester Food Control Committee for attack, which has resulted in the imposition of a fine upon the society by the Lanchester bench of magistrates. The result of that decision is that several societies in the North are seething with discontent, inasmuch as the trade methods of most of the societies are identical with those which prevail at West Stanley. The facts, briefly, are that the Stanley Society has branches in the Lanchester area. The whole of the distribution is made to the branch members from the central premises, which are in the Central Food Control area. In the latter part of December the butchery department was closed, in consequence of the military authorities. The contention of the Lanchester Food Control Committee was that they had a right to take from the West Stanley Society a statement of the trade done and the profit made by the cart from which the meat was hawked which visited their area. The contention of the Stanley Society is that such return should be made to the Food Control Committee at West Stanley, whence the car starts. The case in the court obviously was decided upon this one point that a cart is to be regarded as premises, and we accepted that. Seeing that the sale had been affected from such premises in the Lanchester area, the Food Control Committee could demand from us a statement of our trade and profit. What does that decision bring about? We, at West Stanley, have a butchery cart which in one day visits three distinct food control areas. The decision means that each of the three Food Control Committees in whose areas the sales are effected may demand a statement of the trade done and the profit made in each district by the one cart during the same day. It means that every hawker must know when he steps from one area to another he must do his books at each point, and take stock on each occasion. I contend that such an interpretation of the regulations is an impossible one. I appeal to you to give your full support in sending the resolution to the quarters mentioned. We want no favours; we only seek fair play.

Mr. JENNINGS (Pendleton) seconded, and it was approved.

REORGANISATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE.

(See Report 24, page 162.)

Mr. F. HAYWARD (North-Western Section): I have to submit the suggested reorganisation of the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee. At the commencement of the report it states that at the Swansea Congress last year it was decided that certain steps be taken; and at the Emergency Conference in October last in London we adopted a scheme in order to get the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee into some sort of form. The Central Board now submits these proposals in order to get them more definite in scheme, more national in character, and more representative of the movement. Under this scheme of reorganisation we are proposing that a national committee be appointed, consisting of 27 persons—nine from the Central Board on a sectional basis, nine from and by societies contributing to the Parliamentary scheme, and that the Wholesale Societies should have representatives on the committee as well as the Men's and Women's Guilds. In doing this we are recognising, of course, that the committee is a large one; and we propose that the whole committee should meet at least once a quarter, and that they have power to appoint an executive committee, which will be responsible for carrying on the work during the interregnum. It would also have clearly-defined functions, under which the commission will do its work—you will find they are fully and clearly defined in the report. Passing to the next page, you will see that the financial work is also dealt with. Instead of £2 per thousand members being asked for from societies, it has been slightly amended to the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per member, making £2. 1s. 8d. per thousand, which, to all intents and purposes, is the same figure. We are also asking for a contribution from the wholesale and productive societies. The method under which the finances should be disposed is also set out in the scheme. I think you will agree that when a fund of this character has to be raised it should have some clear and definite regulations as to the objects to which it is to be applied. We are proposing to make this political department a financial department of the Union; and in order that the work should be carried on on uniform lines throughout the country, the system and the advice will be collated in a central office. If we are to go forward in political matters, it is necessary to co-ordinate through the central office. It is expected that the proportion of cost to the Co-operative Union in regard to the scheme will be approximately £3,000 per annum. So much for the national part of the scheme. Now we come to the sectional councils it is proposed to set up. The work has got to be done in different sections and districts, and, consequently, we suggested that in order to facilitate political work there should be set up sectional councils responsible for co-ordination. The report shows the sectional councils representative of the various interests concerned in these political activities. The work of these sectional councils will be of primary importance in the political activities of

the various societies. The whole idea of the scheme we are placing before the movement is to have a clearly-defined authority, with its financial position definitely stated, and the circumstances under which we expect the work of this department to go on and prosper, and focus upon the movement its political thought and apply it to propaganda work. All these things are essential before we can claim to be a political party, and no time shall be lost on our part to do all that is necessary.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section): I want to emphasise Mr. Hayward's remarks. I feel an explanation is due to Congress from me as I am a member of the present Co-operative Representation Committee. I do not agree with the charge of ineptitude against the committee. The work of political organisation is so immense that what delays there have been are incidental to the building up of a great organisation. I support it because the whole of the political work should come under one committee. At present it was a sub-committee of the Parliamentary Committee, and there must be a close alliance between the Parliamentary Committee and the committee that carries out political organisation. The work of both committees is so great as to demand undivided attention. This work will go on after the war, and therefore should be properly looked after. I think the importance of both committees is such as to warrant asking you to adopt the plan to widen the organisation.

UNITED CO-OPERATIVE BAKING SOCIETY DELEGATE: Point of order. Yesterday we were told that a resolution had been handed in from five societies on this question. Why have we not been supplied with a copy of the resolution?

The PRESIDENT: I understand that the amendment sent in by the societies has been accepted by the Standing Orders Committee.

The DELEGATE: I understood we were to be supplied with a copy.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: The rule states: "All resolutions or amendments received by the Standing Orders Committee shall be read out to the Congress at the close of the morning sitting on Monday, and also displayed at a place accessible to all delegates." That is in the Inquiry Office, and it is posted there.

Mr. W. E. DUDLEY (Co-operative Wholesale Society): I claim, if I do not know much about finance, I used to. Last year if you had depended on contributions from societies, despite the fact that several years ago you raised it to 1½d. and you have increased your membership, your contributions would not have met your liabilities. You have taken up extraordinary work, and I want you to consider where you are going. You must find out where you are going to get the finances to carry out any proposal which is agreed to at Congress. The purpose of this recommendation is to add a sectional council in every section, apart from the secretaries. You are going to have sectional boards working and to add a number from other societies equal to the number of the sectional boards; and you have got there a heavy financial responsibility. Therefore, before you pass this, you should have some idea

whether the finances are going to prove a failure and make you tied up for the want of funds.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION.

The GENERAL SECRETARY intimated that the Blackley, Burslem, Failsworth, Liverpool, Manchester and Salford, Nuneaton, Stockport, and Warrington societies, which had sent in a resolution, were anxious to withdraw it in view of some of the amendments. The resolution was as follows:—

- (a) That the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee should be solely responsible to and elected from the Co-operative Union, but a National Advisory Council should also be formed consisting of the members of the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee, together with the representatives from the two Wholesale Societies and other co-operative organisations, of which Congress shall approve, also a representative of each society or group of societies in whose area an approved co-operative Parliamentary candidate is being run, together with a small number of representatives from other societies subscribing to the Parliamentary Fund, and that the Survey Committee consider and present a report to the Central Board within six months for circulation to the sections and district associations in sufficient time for consideration previous to next year's Congress as to the number and method of election of the committee and council, and their duties and the organisations which should be represented thereon.
- (b) That the constitution of the Co-operative Representation Committee should be amended at the Liverpool Congress in order to provide for an Emergency Committee to take the place of the existing Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee, and to act until the 1919 Congress, such committee to consist of equal representation from each Sectional Board, and the societies in each section that subscribe to the fund, together with one representative from each of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies and from auxiliary bodies connected with the movement.

Mr. R. HALSTEAD (Co-operative Productive Federation): As an amendment to the proposed new constitution of the Parliamentary Representation Committee, I move that the Co-operative Productive Federation should have a representative on the Central Committee. On general principle the Federation, he said, claimed a place on this committee, because the Federation was held to be representative of certain distinctive interests and functions of different organisations. The productive societies were not distinctly represented on the committee, and on that ground they ought to have a place. On the ground of solid material co-operative interests the Federation stood about third among the people. There were only two of the bodies represented on

the committee which represented larger solid economic interests than the Federation. They had about 10,000 workers and two millions of capital in the Federation, and were doing some $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions of trade, and the Federation ought to have a place on the committee.

The PRESIDENT: If the Congress approves the Central Board will be willing to accept that proposal. ("Agreed.")

ISSUE OF LITERATURE.

On the part of the scheme defining the functions of the National Co-operative Representation Committee,

Mr. E. WHITELEY (Manchester and Salford) rose to move an amendment to clause 8, which defined it to be a function of the committee "to prepare, for issue through the Publications Committee of the Co-operative Union, such literature as may be deemed necessary for the success of the work of the committee." He wished to move the deletion of the words "for issue through the Publications Committee of the Co-operative Union." It was within the right of the Political Committee to prepare such literature as might be deemed necessary for the success of the work of the committee. If they elected a committee of 27, representing every section of the movement, that committee should be responsible for the issue of the literature of the Political Committee and not the Publications Committee. He might be told that this clause of the constitution did not bear what he interpreted it as meaning. If the word "committee" had been deleted and the word "department" put in it would only have meant that the machinery of the Union as the issuing department would be used, but the clause said the "committee," and if they carried that out logically that committee could act as a censor upon everything sent through it to be decided upon. He hoped that the National Committee would have the power it was giving to the local committees.

Mr. WILKINSON (Co-operative Laundries) seconded the amendment. The wording of the proposed clause meant that there was a censorship put upon the National Committee. It meant that every publication which received the sanction of the National Committee must be sanctioned by the Publications Committee. The National Committee must have control of the political work. What was wanted was more freedom to act, not more brakes, and they wanted to act quickly. There was great political educational work to do, and that could not be done unless the National Committee had full control over the publications. He had every respect for the Publications Committee, but they should not have power to act as censors over another National Committee.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section): I want to put this matter right. We are a Publications Department, as described by the mover of this amendment, and not a Publications Committee, as described by the seconder. We do not censor, and never have censored any publications on the lines hinted at. The Publications Committee was brought into being by the Union as a sub-committee of the Union, to simplify all the publication. The Union, through

its United Board and Sectional Boards, publish things that were worthy of a national issue. The Union decided that there should be a committee which should publish for those other bodies what they thought fitting to be published. The committee existed only to simplify the work of the Union, which would be complicated if it did not come under the control of one committee.

The PRESIDENT : Now, the Board are prepared to accept the substitution of the word "department" for "committee." ("Agreed.")

Mr. W. ROSS (Cowlairst) : Nothing has surprised me more than the meagre sums as shown, when we consider that we are going to conduct a Parliamentary campaign. I feel sure that the sum suggested will not be adequate to meet the requirements. I belong to a union by which six times this amount has been contributed, and candidates have been selected ready to take their places when the election comes. We should get to business, and simplify matters as much as we can. Time is essential. The enemy is outside and we have opponents in the inside. We can watch our enemy outside, but it is far more difficult to watch our opponents inside. Whilst we have agreed on one central fund, I am strongly of opinion that if the movement is going to succeed on this question of Parliamentary representation we must get to business in a proper and quick manner. It is suggested in the Parliamentary Committee's report that we should set up a constitution, but I am afraid that it is far too complicated. Too much time is going to be wasted ; we have wasted a whole twelve months already. We do not know how long it will be before a general election may come, and we shall then find ourselves in the same way that the country found itself when faced with the war. We are as far back now as we were twelve months ago ("No.") If not we have advanced very little. As we have a tradition handed down I appeal to you as co-operators and trade-unionists to hand on this tradition. I earnestly urge you to consider well what you are going to do. You must be prepared to make sacrifices for the good of the whole industrial classes of the country, otherwise I am confident that failure awaits our efforts.

Mr. W. GALLACHER (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) : During the discussion, which was bound to arise, certain things were bound to be said about the present committee. It had been said that twelve months have been wasted. It is only seven months since the committee was formed. We had to wait for the Central Board to appoint two representatives. We have held meetings every fortnight since that time. We have done a great deal of work. We have contested a Parliamentary election, and instead of our being too slow we have been too fast in some particulars. Is this a time, when the scheme has only had six months for trial, to inaugurate a great, comprehensive, cumbersome, costly scheme such as this. There were to be 29 members to begin with. What we want is a small effective committee to do the work, not a tremendous committee like this. If you have an executive committee who will have to report to a committee of 29 we should have a circumlocutionary method from which no good result could be obtained. A small

committee of twelve would do the work much more efficiently. I hold that the ordinary work of the Parliamentary Committee is closely related and inter-dependent with the new work. You ought not to have another organising body dealing with the politician. We have in Scotland a grievance. We are to have one less representative than the Co-operative Wholesale Society. I do not know why this was done, or whether they were going to base the representation on size. I contend that we ought to give the present scheme a trial. A prominent co-operator has stated that we have enough machinery to drive the world. There is more harness than horse. We have harness for a six-horse team, and we are putting it on what? I will leave you to supply the answer. The present Parliamentary Committee were never consulted as to the new constitution, it was drafted before they knew anything about it. I ask the Parliamentary Committee and the Union's people to set to work to devise a workable, small, compact scheme, which will do the work effectively and report to the next Congress. Unless this is done we shall not know where we are and the last position will be worse than the first.

Mrs. E. D. HOOD (Enfield Highway): I hope they are going to give fair play to the Parliamentary Committee. It has not had it during the seven months of its existence. We have been told there is no holding up of interests. We have a paper published, and it was censored by the Publications Department. It was called "The Vote at Last." It was censored by the Publications Department—or somebody connected with it—who deleted portions of it. We have not time to be played with like that. The committee has been held back by the Co-operative Union. There will be nothing done for another twelve months if we put it in the Union's hands. Give them a chance to carry on the work. Let them have a free hand, both as regards finance and publications.

Mr. RAE: The statement that the pamphlet was censored by the Publications Department is absolutely wrong.

Mrs. CORRIE (Coventry): There is no doubt about it, it was held up by someone.

Mr. F. H. BRUFF (Birmingham Printers): I want to support the policy of the Board—

The PRESIDENT ruled him out of order.

Mr. T. BIRD (Ipswich): I desire to draw attention to clause 4 of the finance regulations: "Special donations to the fund may be received from individuals and others in sympathy with the objects of the committee." I feel that in the short time at my disposal and the multiplicity of objects that this clause has been overlooked. Perhaps the Chairman will give us some indication of what they had in mind when that clause was drafted. One of the principles of democracy is that those who pay the piper should call the tune, so I do view with alarm this clause about special donations. If we have committed ourselves to Parliamentary representation, it should be competent for us to pay the piper, and not have to rely on donations and subscriptions from without, even though they are sympathisers. If it costs

us £10,000, let us pay in a democratic way. If it costs £50,000, let us still be prepared to pay. One does not contribute amounts of this kind without expecting something in return.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) criticised strongly the new Parliamentary scheme in moving the following resolution:—

This Congress is of opinion that the proposed sectional councils for representation purposes are unnecessary, and would prove to be elaborate, costly, and cumbersome in practice, and that all the machinery necessary is provided in the National Council, with its Executive Committee and Political Department. It therefore directs that the establishment of these councils be not proceeded with.

Or, as an alternative to the foregoing:—

Delete section relating to "sectional councils."

He said: I wish to place the issue plainly before you. We are anxious in Birmingham to substitute for your present committee a plain, simple machine for political propaganda and the return of candidates, both to national and local councils; and we think for this purpose the proposed machinery of a national character composed of 27 candidates, as suggested, with a political department and a secretary controlling it, organised for propaganda with societies and combinations of societies primarily elected to the national committee and linked up to the department—we want to assure you is all the machinery that will be necessary for the purpose you have in view. On that committee you have all interests represented; and you have your Central Board interests not antagonistic, but of a friendly character. Since then the Central Board have come to the same conclusion. We in Birmingham have set up a council of five societies, and connected with that 170 members and an executive of 15, to get men appointed as magistrates and to run local men for the Town Council; and we find that machinery answers our purpose. Not only does this answer as the machinery for the work, but we can get the finance. Contrast this with your machinery! You have a sub-committee within a committee—a box within a box. You have a committee which is not a directly elected committee, and which has no special fitness for the work to be done, and one which is already overlapping with other work—what with the military council, food control, and so on. We maintain you have no right to put an extra burden on. And now you propose to jump from one extreme to the other. You propose to jump into a scheme that is wide, elaborate, and will be costly. There are four points why we think the scheme opposed in the resolution is unnecessary: the whole of the ground is covered already; it is doubling the machinery with no-executive power; it will be costly—it costs £728 a year at present—and you are setting up machinery three times as large, which means you will have to multiply the cost by at least three; and then it will be slow, because you have to appeal to your sections. We suggest that you have machinery that is simple and practical. Do not smother the new political baby with too much clothing!

Mr. E. R. S. MUNDY (Dover District) : This proposal is altogether too cumbersome for any agricultural county like South-West Somerset, Devon, or Cornwall. Already we have sufficient committees at work, on the same lines as has been told to us by the Birmingham delegate. We have already a fairly successful district association. There are four or five divisions in the county of Devon, with executive committees, for the purpose of securing practical Parliamentary representation. Apart from that, there are five rural districts incapable of organising for this purpose, but who are willing to be organised. You are wanting to add to the work of the already over-weighted Sectional Board. At present it cannot be done in the South-Western Section. We already have a committee of guild women and representatives of educational committees operating from Bristol to Penzance—you see the geography of one section, our area, running from Ilfracombe on the one side to Torquay and Plymouth on the other! And then the railway facilities are such as to make it impossible to undertake the work by sectional council; and that must obtain all over the country.

SECOND DAY OF CONGRESS.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

The Congress, on resuming after lunch, proceeded to discuss the amendment of Birmingham Industrial Society on the reorganisation of the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee.

Mr. T. F. FATHERS (Birmingham), in speaking to the amendment, said : I suggest that if the Board decide to make it a national question they will upset all the work that has been done in the districts which have agreed on their candidates. I think Mr. May pointed out very conclusively how very unwise it would be to adopt sectional boards. I hope you will reject the proposal of the Central Board.

Mr. J. PENNY (Sheffield and Ecclesall) : My feeling is this : I want the co-operative movement to elect a single, straight, national committee, taking in every constituency, and there should be direct connection between the central body and the constituency councils. We do not want to cumber ourselves with a sectional arrangement. At the same time a number of constituencies may find it desirable to have a local federation; and all the constituencies in one of our sections may think it advisable to have a conference. I do not want to be a barrier in the way, but I think if we leave it at that we shall arrive at the best thing for the movement.

Mr. C. WALKDEN (Leigh) : It is absolutely essential to leave local units free to organise one with another.

Mr. F. HAYWARD, on behalf of the Central Board, said : Every speaker has assumed that if the scheme went through there would be a sectional council in every district. There is complete autonomy, but it was thought that this scheme, while meeting Scotland's scheme of Home Rule, would not force any other districts who do not want separate action to take it. The scheme of the Central Board is the most efficient.

The PRESIDENT : We can soon test it.

DELEGATE IN THE GALLERY : Where does the Scotch—

The PRESIDENT : You will come later on. Those in favour of the latter portion of the Birmingham amendment will signify by holding up their hands. Carried by a very large majority.

SCOTTISH AUTONOMY PROPOSALS.

The next resolution was one sent in by Clydebank, Cowlairst, Shettleston, St. George, and St. Rollox societies :—

That a separate committee be instituted for Scotland, consisting of three members of the Scottish Section, two members from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's Board, one from each of the ten Conference District Committees, and one from the Scottish Women's Guild. This committee to exercise all the powers, so far as Scotland is concerned, as the scheme confers on the Central Parliamentary Representation Committee, and to work in close co-operation with the Central Parliamentary Representation Committee in its national policy.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : This resolution is to be moved in five minutes, seconded in five minutes, and four other speakers will have three minutes each.

Mr. W. KERR (St. George, Glasgow), in moving the resolution, said : Let me be very plain and tell you that this is a very modified request we are putting before you for Home Rule. The difference between the Home Rule question we are putting before you and the question which has been disturbing the country for some time is this : We are putting our moderate request before a democratic assembly, and in the other case that cannot be said. I am pleased that this amendment has been allowed to come on. We have been hearing a good deal about democracy. We have been hearing about the advent of the Co-operative Commonwealth. We are enthusiastic at the moment so far as Parliamentary representation is concerned. If you grant this request by the Scottish societies you will save a considerable amount of friction in the future. The success of our political movement depends very much upon how you commence. Supposing the Congress does not agree to our proposals, we are still whole-heartedly in favour of Parliamentary representation. We believe in the Co-operative Commonwealth. I do not advocate the Labour Party more than any other, but if the Labour Party is working to bring in the Co-operative Commonwealth let us support them. If you grant this modest request we from Scotland are making it

will help us very materially and benefit our movement considerably. Yesterday we discussed the position of women to Parliamentary representation. So far as Scotland is concerned, we have the utmost confidence in the women, and we know that the women realise to a greater extent than we men the necessity for Parliamentary representation. We are anxious not to miss any opportunity that may be used in the future; and by granting this request you will help us. I think I can leave it to this democratic Congress to give a democratic and just decision.

Mr. C. HUNTER (Cowlairst) : I second this resolution, which, I can assure you, is not put forward in any parochial or sectional spirit, but because of the interest we have in Parliamentary representation. We heard with great enthusiasm the report of our delegates to the Emergency Conference at London, and Cowlairst Society at once put a scheme into operation. We have organised the women's guild, about 1,000 strong, and we have organised the agencies of the society with a view to this campaign. We have issued no literature, because we have not received any from the Parliamentary Representation Committee. Quite recently we had the mortification of noticing that the Independent Labour Party were stealing a march upon us and claiming the seat. We believe we are able to fix up working arrangements with the Labour Party or any other party working for democracy; and if the Congress leaves this work in our hands we shall be able to send someone who will stand up for our rights in Parliament. We know you can vote us down at this Congress, but we appeal to you in the name of all that is reasonable or fair to give us a chance in Scotland to work on our own political salvation.

Mr. N. McLEAN (Scottish Section) : Let me point out, as was stated by the mover, this amendment was carried at the annual conference of the Scottish co-operative societies this year as an amendment to the Central Board's own constitution. You are, therefore, getting in this amendment what is practically the desire of Scotland. I wish English delegates to understand that Scotland is not an English county. It is a nation by itself, with its own national traditions, temperament—perhaps too much—and its own laws. Scottish law is entirely different from English law. You have, therefore, to consider, in placing your votes before Congress, in deciding this matter you are not deciding something which is really a part of England, but something which appertains to a separate country. We did not wait for the Emergency Congress to put our machinery in order. As soon as the Swansea Congress decided that political action should be taken the Scottish societies set a political committee at work. That committee has been organising the constituencies. It has been circularising societies and urging the necessity of co-operators taking a part in political action. It has been doing everything possible to make the movement a political as well as a commercial and ethical force. We ask you as the predominant—the very predominant partner—to at least give Scotland Home Rule in this particular connection. We hear a lot of talk about “self-determination.” Give Scotland self-determination—allow us to work out our own emancipation and conduct

our affairs in our own way. When it comes to international matter we can stand side by side, even if you get a little ahead of us. A slur has been cast upon the Scottish societies that they vote for asterisks. Men in Scotland and England have voted for names and political parties, and have not voted for principles. We have to get rid of that. I ask you to assist Scotland in being able to decide Scottish principles by Scottish votes.

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (North-Western Section): I want to support the plea of the Scottish delegates in this matter. A good deal of co-operative inspiration comes from Scotland. They are noted as a hospitable nation. In co-operative matters I consider that the Scottish co-operators have been very progressive in the past, even before the formation of the Parliamentary Representation Committee, and they deserve recognition in this particular matter. Scotland has, in the past, taken upon itself the burden of fighting co-operative elections long before we thought of forming our political committee. I hope that the delegates from the other parts of the country will realise the position of the Scottish co-operators. Scottish co-operators have been able to work alongside with the trade union forces. This has been a great help and a great strength. If we give them power to form their own organisation in the Scottish Section it will enable them to work in harmony with the trade-unionists in a way it has not been possible for them hitherto to do. I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment.

Mr. S. F. WHITLOCK (Stratford): I hope that this amendment will not be carried. All machinators try to split you up. The same arguments can be used for putting Wiltshire, and Cornwall, and any other place, in a separate organisation if they decided to go in for Home Rule. Every argument that has been used is one for keeping Scotland in. Surely they can let us have this experience in England. Let them come here and push us along. There was no reason given that if this proposal were carried you will have more effective organisation for the British House of Commons. Men will split up your organisation. The organisation ought to be kept as clean and tight as possible. The forces you have to meet are organised, not as Scotch, Irish, Welsh, or English. No, they are too clever for that. They preach it to you, but they do not preach it to themselves. They have not a Scotch railway board in the House of Commons; they have a railway board which looks after the interests of the railways of the United Kingdom. You ask Mr. May, he will tell you. They have not an engineers' employers' federation for Scotland. I know they have a section there, and they take in the whole country. When the engineers meet at York they meet the employers throughout the country. You keep your organisation tight; do not split off into nationalities. If this is passed, next year the Welsh will come and ask for Home Rule; then Wiltshire will ask for Home Rule, and London as well.

Mr. J. BLACKWELL (Gloucester): I am sorry that this objector to what is going to be very nearly a unanimous vote did not supply us with arguments whereby we could have gained some information sufficient to have enabled us to have voted against the amendment. Amongst our Scottish friends we

have such men as the one sitting on the right hand of the Chairman, who has devoted his life to the co-operative movement, more especially the international side. We have admired the stability, sincerity, and earnestness on the part of such men as Mr. Maxwell and those associated with him. I know at the same time another section of the United Kingdom which is seeking power to administer their own local affairs. How can we as a democratic institution withhold from extending to our Scottish friends the desire of their hearts. I am looking forward to the day—I have my reasons, but I am not going to enter into them just now—as regards Home Rule for Wales, and that will come. When it does come I hope we shall be as unanimous as we are this morning. I do with all the earnestness I am capable of commanding ask this Congress to be unanimous in its decision, so that at the next Congress we shall be more united than we ever have been in consequence of our vote.

Mr. F. HAYWARD: We are here to-day as the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, and this resolution—

Some Scottish delegates interrupted.

The PRESIDENT: Let the speaker proceed.

Mr. HAYWARD: Scotland will be diverted, according to this resolution, to the committee which it is proposed to set up. We want Scotland to work, and continue to work, amongst us, so that we in England may be able to bring our machinery to the same state of efficiency that they claim they have there. I hope Congress will decide to reject this resolution, and give to Scotland the same rights as any other part of the kingdom in the scheme.

The amendment at this point was submitted to the vote, and was declared rejected by a large majority.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: Bannockburn withdraw their amendment, because sectional councils have been deleted from the report.

The PRESIDENT: The next is the adoption of the report of the reorganisation of the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee as amended. Those in favour? The "Ayes" have it by a very large majority.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

(See Report 26, page 168)

Mr. R. ROWSELL (Southern Section): I would like to direct your attention to the report of this committee. I think there is not much to add to what is contained there. You will find the whole of the facts carefully set out and fully reported. The only addition I might make is that you will find in every case dealt with by the committee, not the general system of arbitration, where you hear the claims of both parties and then divide by two, but that the committee have carefully considered the whole of the circumstances and have given their awards in a complete, just, and equitable manner. Another point I would like to refer to is the cordial and friendly feeling in every instance prevailing between the societies and the trade unions concerned. Every reference to the committee has been of the most friendly

character; and I think in every instance the award of the committee has been accepted as being a just and fair one.

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton): Is there any conflict between this Board and the National Conciliation Board of the Co-operative Union? It seems to me we have two bodies sitting for the settlement of wages disputes. I should like a word from the General Secretary as to the exact position.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: I think it is very clear. The Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators have to deal with craft unions, as apart from the A.U.C.E.

UNITED ADVISORY COUNCIL OF TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

(See Report 27, page 171.)

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section): Section 27 is a new section in our report to Congress. It is the outcome of a frank, spontaneous, and generous demand of our trade-unionist friends for a better understanding of the co-operative movement. In the resolution you will find that the Trades Union Congress states that the development of the co-operative movement is essential to the trade-union movement; and they ask, further on in that resolution, that representatives of our body be selected to conceive plans for the working together in the future of these two great bodies of workers in this country. The report, as it continues, gives the progress that has been made by these duly appointed representatives. A statement was adopted by our National Emergency Conference as to the objects proposed and the progress made by the two movements working together in double harness; and it was also adopted by the Trades Union Congress. The trade-unionists wanted to know if the co-operative movement was financially strong enough to carry on the financial work of the trade-union movement. Six of their representatives and six of ours were appointed to meet the Co-operative Wholesale Society and their bank manager, and a most interesting interview took place. The fear was expressed that the occasion might arise when the co-operative movement could not meet all the demands made upon it if the trade union funds were invested with the Co-operative Wholesale Society. "Our funds now amount to a million, and we might want that to be withdrawn," said they. "What would happen?" The reply was that the incoming and outgoing per day in the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank was no less than £1,000,000 sterling. Probably some of the delegates here to-day will be as much pleased to hear that as were the trade-unionists. It means that the financial power of the movement is such that its business is of such an extent and a character that every day in the year one million of money passes through the bank. That was sufficient for the trade-unionists. Since then they have gone on organising a series of joint conferences—one has already been held at Manchester and another at Bristol, and the reports from both have been satisfactory. The next joint conference is to be held in London, and later one at Glasgow. The idea is to familiarise the minds

of the rank and file of both movements with the nature of this great undertaking. May I commend this section of the report to your careful and sympathetic consideration, and venture to say that in future reports to Congress this section will rank amongst the most important sections of all.

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton) : I notice that at the conclusion of the ordinary business the question of excess profits duty was discussed and a resolution passed to be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. May we have the basis of that resolution sent in our name?

The PRESIDENT : The resolution was to the effect that our trade union friends were entirely in sympathy with us in this matter, and that they would join forces with us to get justice and equity in this respect.

Mr. J. H. PENDLEBURY (Coventry) : I would like to refer to the question of trade unions banking with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and suggest that every delegate should emphasise this portion of the report; and where there has been no action the delegates should go to their trade unions and emphasise it there. I might suggest that some hints should be given to secretaries in regard to cheques. I know that information has been given, but there are sometimes queries as to modes of procedure, and a little book giving more information would be a help to the trade union secretaries.

Mr. A. E. STUBBS (Cambridge) : The workers of the country must take joint action between the co-operative movement and the trade-union movement. They must stand solidly. We saw what the Co-operative Wholesale Society did during the Dublin strike. If the workers will put their money into the Co-operative Wholesale Society, then, in the event of industrial disputes, they can get money to feed their wives and children.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper Society) : I want to emphasise the point in regard to banking with the Co-operative Wholesale Society. There are 150 societies who do not bank with the Wholesale Society. The report was accepted.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

(See Report 29, page 175.)

The PRESIDENT at this stage presented the list of gentlemen recommended by their sectional boards, and approved by the United Board, for election as honorary members, and the Congress unanimously approved of the list.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

(See Report 30, page 175.)

The PRESIDENT also submitted the list of deceased members of the Central Board. Since the report was printed two more had passed away—Messrs. C. J. Beckett, of St. Annes (honorary member), and S. Butler, of Leng Eaton (Midland Section). The President said : ' We lament the loss the movement has suffered in the death of these members, and I will ask you to rise in your places in respect to the memory of these departed friends.

To this the delegates gracefully and respectfully responded.

A SOCIETY TRANSFERRED.

(See Report 32, page 180.)

After dealing with the reports of the sections, the PRESIDENT directed the attention of the delegates to the application of the Llanidloes Co-operative Society to be transferred from the Western to the Midland Section. Both Sectional Boards were agreed, but the approval of Congress was required.

The PRESIDENT formally moved that the transfer be agreed to, and this was carried *nem. con.*

CO-OPERATIVE UNION FINANCES.

(See Report 33, page 180.)

Mr. S. F. PERRY (Birkenhead), recalling the remarks made in the morning by Mr. Dudley, said: I am quite prepared to give him full credit for his intimate knowledge of the affairs of the Union, but I want to submit that we are not quite so badly off as Mr. Dudley imagines us to be. He was quite right to point out the dangers ahead, but we have not so very much cause to complain. He made the point this morning that but for an increase from the investments our expenditure for the year 1917 would have exceeded our income. May I point out that while the income, apart from receipts from publications, is, roughly, about £20,000; on the other hand, there are items making over £1,100 of extraordinary expenditure. We have had over £500 for the Emergency Conference in London, and the Survey Committee cost us over £440 during 1917. I am not complaining about that expenditure, because every penny of it will prove to be money well spent. For the Holyoake Centenary we had an extraordinary expenditure of over £200. The policy of the Union two or three years ago, in seeking to make the Union a real live Union, and advancing the subscriptions from the societies, had been justified; and, having regard to the extraordinary items of expenditure, we still stand in a good position, and I wish to congratulate the Central Board on the healthy state of its finances.

Mr. W. H. SAVAGE (Birmingham): Does the item of £217. 3s. 8d. for the Holyoake Centenary close this account?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: Yes!

THE SURVEY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

(See Report 37, page 183)

The next item reached was the report of the Co-operative Survey Committee. Before this was submitted, Mr. WATKINS, on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, outlined the procedure which it was proposed to follow.

The PRESIDENT: It is proposed that a statement should be made by the members responsible for the preparation of the report.

A DELEGATE: If Mr. Rae makes a statement lasting ten minutes, and the chairman of each section have another ten minutes each, and Mr. Rae

had another ten minutes for his reply, this limits the educational part to half an hour.

Mr. RAE: I can assure my friend that as regards the division of time for educational matters it is quite fair. There is very little in the report bearing on education; you dealt so generously with it last year that the amount of time relegated to it is sufficient. I will ask you to accept the Survey Committees report; I will not move its adoption. The Survey Committee expected it to be discussed. This is better than we should finally adopt the report and forget it. We feel that the suggestion made will meet our aims better than anything else. The report can be accepted after discussion here, that it should be completed and printed and circulated in the early autumn. It could then be discussed throughout the whole winter, and then come up for adoption at the next Congress. The members of the Survey Committee want to do nothing else than help co-operators to get nearer this final goal. We want to remove that, for which we shall substitute something better. We want to interfere with no vested interests. My own education committee do not like to feel that they are going to be removed and others put in their places. It is quite natural. I never knew a suggestion made for the removal of a member of a committee which did not fail to touch the heart of that member. It has been hinted that the Survey Committee have been a long time over the survey. I would have you remember that the people who sit on it are not people of leisure. They work day in day out and have their hobbies. It was not possible to give the time we should have liked, and in consequence the meetings have spread over a long time. But there have not been too many after all. The Survey Committee has been meeting for three years. They met 15 times as a full committee. The Education Sub-committee met 21 times, the Constitutional Sub-committee 36 times, the Propaganda Sub-committee 31 times. These meetings were spread over a long time, but we have wasted no time in excessive meetings. We have produced a volume of suggestions and statistics, such as the co-operative movement had never had put in its hands before. The Education Sub-committee were ordered to resume negotiations with the Co-operative Press, and they have done so. When this report was put in print the Education Sub-committee came to the conclusion that the negotiations could be carried no further. You will find a memorandum on the subject in the report. You will find at the end of the memorandum certain suggestions were made. We want to withdraw the whole of these suggestions to-day, because the good sense of our friends of the Co-operative Press have enabled us to open the door for further negotiations, which we believe will lead to the strengthening of the Co-operative Press in the future. What we want to do is to help co-operation to assert itself. We want to deprive none of the pleasure of work; we want to provide more work for those who have the appetite for it. Receive our report. Please discuss it, and then, when it is finally adopted, live up to it like good co-operators.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section): I have great pleasure in

introducing the section of the report dealing with the constitution and administration. I may say that it is scarcely possible in the time allotted to me to deal in detail with the various suggestions which we have to make as a result of our inquiry. You will readily understand that the committee has had to wade through a great mass of information and evidence, and on that evidence, in the light of past experience and requirements of the future, we have at any rate been able to make suggestions which we think will improve the constitution of the movement and to make it better to meet the requirements made upon it. First of all, we felt that it was far better to inquire into our conditions and to put our own house in order before we were able to make suggestions for other people to do likewise. We began our inquiry by examining the constitution of the Co-operative Union itself, and, without casting any reflections on those who drew up the original constitution, which, of course, was adequate at the time it was instituted, is wholly inadequate to meet the conditions and circumstances at the present time. We have numerous suggestions to make with regard to the constitution of the Union and its administration. First of all, take the objects of the Union. We felt that it was necessary that the world should know what we are out for and what our intentions are. We felt that it was not sufficient to say that we are booksellers, publishers, and the like, but that we are out to establish the Co-operative Commonwealth. We proposed an alteration in the rules setting out our aim to create a Co-operative Commonwealth. Now, with regard to the Central Board of the Union. The Central Board, as you know, is a Board for the management and control of the Co-operative Union. We find that the Board has not carried out what we believed it was intended should be and largely is, its proper function. Immediately after its election it met and appointed sub-committees, relegating all its duties to these sub-committees, and never met again until the end of the Congress year. Immediately prior to the sitting of Congress the Board adopted the reports of these committees as the Central Board report, and presented it to Congress as such. We feel that this is not the proper function of the Central Board. It is democratically elected, and it ought to set out a policy for the movement, and to see that this policy is carried out. It is necessary, we feel, that this Board should meet oftener, and should take up its duties and carry them out. We make suggestions to that effect. This will mean the abolition of some committees, such as the office committee, and the setting up of an executive committee of the Central Board itself. I am sure if you consider the matter thoroughly you will realise that this is a sound way of dealing with the central authority of the Co-operative Union. Later on we are venturing to suggest that the time has arrived when we should consider the setting up of a permanent executive of the movement. Much has been said about unification, and the using of the potential powers in the proper direction; but I venture to think that the ever-changing *personnel* of the committees of the Union makes it impossible to realise the full force of our power in that direction. It is not the fault of the men; it is the fault of the circumstances under which they exist. They have work to do in

other vocations to earn their daily bread; it is only their spare time which they can devote to the services of the movement. The consequence is that we are not able to bring all the forces to bear at the proper time, and in consequence opportunities are lost which might have been used to the great advantage of the movement. Think it over whether or not the committee should be free and unfettered from any obligation in order that they may give their services full and entirely to the movement. There is another point to which I desire to draw attention, and that is the consideration of the section boundaries. Since the boundaries were set the movement has developed to such an extent that it has become necessary, after a full inquiry, to divide up the existing sections in order to get greater efficiency and to develop the movement much quicker than having too large sections, where we have not the control which we ought to have. As regards the Auxiliary Council, we feel that whilst we have in the movement a large number of very powerful and beneficial factors, we find that we have not the result out of that work as there otherwise would be if they acted in unison and cohesion one with the other. We have suggested that there should be set up an auxiliary advisory council. These bodies will be represented on a council where they can discuss together the policy of the movement, and where they can understand thoroughly what everyone is doing. There would be no overlapping and waste of time. The general policy of the movement would be built up and developed in a proper and systematic way. This is one way of gathering strength and power through the auxiliary bodies in the movement. It is our desire that there should be a free discussion of this report on every point, and that any doubts in your mind should be cleared up, so that the report may be issued and discussed throughout the movement. At any rate, it is desirable that you should have a grasp of what is meant by the proposals of the Survey Committee.

Mr. S. F. PERRY (Birkenhead): I want to support the efforts to make the Union a real Union in every sense of the word. While we are all hoping and working for the upholding and maintaining of democracy, we must realise that it is a real danger unless it is wisely led and controlled. We ought to abide by the constitution and have confidence in our leaders to leave matters in their hands.

Mr. H. BRINDLEY (Burslem): I support the recommendations of the committee. If we are to have democratic control, we must have it constitutionally to have success. There is enough of chaos outside.

Mr. PERRY (Birkenhead): It is a surprising thing to me how the Central Board has been prepared to submit for so long to this false position. If the Central Board is to be regarded as the controlling authority of this Congress, give them a fair chance to make a fair show for their position. A Board which, in the ordinary course of events, would meet on the Saturday morning before the Congress and on the Tuesday during Congress can hardly be said to have a real chance for a position holding responsibility. I am not a betting man, but I have heard something about backing two horses. I would like to know which horse the committee is backing.

Mr. T. ANDERSON (York) : The qualification for membership states that a man must have served some term on a society's committee before he can serve on the Central Board. A man may not have served on the Board of his society, or may not have had experience as the manager of a society or served as a member of a committee, but he might be just as well qualified for election to the Central Board as though he had gone through what they consider is the necessary preliminary state. It is not always possible in a society of 12,000 members for all the people to serve at once on any of its committees; but a man may have gathered that kind of information that may fit him for a seat on the Central Board. Should this scheme go through, either now or next year, it will be very difficult later on to wipe out this clause. I should not like this scheme adopted with this recommendation in it, for it might lead to the exclusion of many able men in the movement.

A DELEGATE : This portion of the report was introduced by Mr. Gregory in a speech of ten minutes, and then you decided to take it page by page. I suggest the discussion should be limited to a small number of delegates, and make it a rule that a delegate should only speak once.

Mr. J. BLACKWELL (Gloucester) : I am of the opinion that instead of the Central Board's recommendation as to qualifications for members of the Board in respect to previous service on the Central Board, or on general or educational committees, the length of membership of the movement, say three years, should be the qualification.

Mr. F. W. BOOTH (Hull) : I am on the side of the "Government" in this matter. We have to take a long view in this matter and legislate to-day on wise constructional lines. I am not prepared, and I would be surprised if the Congress were, to legislate for those heaven-sent individuals who have done nothing for the movement, but who are especially fitted for co-operative work. We are not legislating for extraordinary people, but just ordinary men who have borne the heat and burden of co-operation, whose work and service are well known, and if we take a sane view we will simply put Mr. Anderson's idea out of court altogether and retain our sanity by supporting the "Government."

The PRESIDENT : What I think the Standing Orders say is that we should have a general discussion. If we take it up paragraph by paragraph we will be a long time. I think we want the opinion of the Congress on a general discussion.

Mr. J. E. ELSTON (Huddersfield) : I think it is unnecessary to gild gold by discussing the matter line by line, but do so generally. I think some of the delegates are anxious to get their names in the Press.

Miss E. E. M. ALLEN (Croydon) : Has there been any question of the division of the Southern Section or any consideration of boundary lines between London and other parts of the section?

Mr. E. R. S. MUNDY (Exeter) said he thought the Union would have taken this matter of the boundaries of the sections up more seriously. There was one particular absurdity apparently unknown to the great body of co-operators. London was not considered large enough in population or

membership to be a separate section; but anyone ought to know that with a population of seven millions there was sufficient work to be done by a sectional board for itself. If they turned to the list of subscriptions to the Union they would see the list of the societies included in the Southern Section. These extended from the mouth of the Thames to Exeter, across the country to Southampton, and went on to Lyme Regis. There was at one time a society at Lyme Regis, and in order to touch that society members of the societies had to travel from London, through Somerset, in the South-Western Section, into Devon, and change trains to get into Dorset. He thought the Survey Committee had shown great weakness in referring this matter to the Sectional Boards; and if they had referred it to societies or district associations they would have got a different opinion.

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry), referring to the suggestion that anyone who had ten consecutive years' service on a sectional board might be made an honorary member of the Central Board, pointed out that there was nothing said about how long these people might remain honorary members. They might remain honorary members for years; they had no votes as honorary members, but they were there and had an influence. Was there no suggestion, she asked, as to how long they might be allowed to remain on?

Mr. T. HORROCKS (Assistant Secretary): There is no term; but the honorary members are only elected by the Congress.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper): Yes, and they are only elected for one year? Congress can determine each year whether they are to be re-elected or not?

Mr. HORROCKS: Yes!

Mr. F. H. BRUFF (Birmingham Printers) suggested that in going over the sectional areas the Survey Committee should have an eye on the political divisions of the country, so that we might get not only smaller sections, but sections coincident with the political divisions of the country. There was no reason why we should not have county sections—Yorkshire was a case in point. We should have sections and divisions that would harmonise with county council areas, Parliamentary divisions, and municipal wards, with a complete field to work upon. The present sections were too large—the Midland Section, for instance—and he did not see how they could organise these sections properly. Too much time was spent travelling in trains.

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton): The report, clause (c), distinctly states that the Co-operative Union has not had adequate representation on the Joint Parliamentary Committee. I am afraid we can charge the Survey Committee with being very lax in dealing with this matter. They say further on: "We, therefore, recommend that the whole matter should be taken into consideration at the first Congress after the declaration of peace." We have had this matter of the Joint Parliamentary Committee before the Congress for three or four years now. It is two years since Mr. Gregory prevailed upon the Secretaries' Association to withdraw their amendment, asking for a reconstitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, on the distinct understanding

that the Survey Committee intended bringing forward a report. I maintain that the Survey Committee have not carried out their promise in that respect by leaving the matter over entirely until after the declaration of peace. Possibly we shall require a new Survey Committee and new recommendations before we can get any alteration in the Parliamentary Committee. I am not discussing the Parliamentary Committee itself; much can be said with regard to its work, at which dissatisfaction has been expressed. I could refer to the Military Service Bill, and so on. We are not now discussing the Parliamentary Committee, but the Survey Committee's report. We expected the Survey Committee to have brought forward a report for a new Joint Parliamentary Committee, and this should have been done in this report. I will ask Mr. Gregory, chairman of the committee, to take this matter back, and to bring forward a definite recommendation. Let us have a new Joint Parliamentary Committee, so that it can go forward directly that peace is declared.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section): It is not correct to say that the Survey Committee have neglected to bring a report before this Congress. On the page to which Mr. Bentley referred it states distinctly that we think the time has arrived when the Joint Parliamentary Committee should be a committee of the Central Board. The report went on to say that the committee did not consider that this was the moment for reconstituting the Parliamentary Committee. We do agree that as soon as possible it should be constituted a sub-committee of the Co-operative Union, directly responsible to Congress. When we consider the enormous amount of work and the importance of the work that is being done by the Parliamentary Committee at this time in the matter of representation, food control, &c., to destroy the *personnel* at this moment would be detrimental to the movement. I support the proposal that we take a fair middle course. Whilst agreeing to the principle that the Parliamentary work should be in the hands of the Co-operative Union, under the conditions in which we are now living it will be unwise to alter its constitution at present.

Mr. T. F. FATHERS (Birmingham) said that, according to what appeared on page 97 of the report, the consideration of the proposal to alter the constitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee be left over until the first Congress after the declaration of peace. And the war was going on to all eternity! "The Survey Committee," he said, "turns the matter over to the Central Board and leaves it there. We in Birmingham feel we want something more speedy than that."

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper): If this report is passed to-day, do I understand—

The PRESIDENT: I have tried more than once to explain that this report will not be passed to-day. Having accepted the amendment of Woolwich Arsenal, you now go back to your homes with information you would otherwise not have got. If I had my own way in this matter there would be no discussion at all. That is the real business way of dealing with it.

Mr. S. F. PERRY (Birkenhead) : But Congress has not accepted the Woolwich resolution at all!

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry) : You do not get the feeling of the Congress in regard to the resolution sent in from different societies. It is absolutely a waste of time!

The PRESIDENT then read the amendment of the Royal Arsenal Society at Woolwich. "That," he said, "is an amendment of adjournment pure and simple; and I take it that the Standing Orders Committee were in accord with it.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper) : It is an educational discussion, I take it.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER explained that the idea was for the Congress to discuss the matter, and then for the delegates to go back to their societies to give it their mature consideration.

Mr. R. HALL (Heckmondwike) : I have been trying to get at the bottom of this matter, and it seems to me that this report is submitted for either our acceptance or rejection. ("No, no!") The report strikes me as covering a great part of an engineering movement.

Mr. F. JENNINGS (Pendleton) : If we are going to create another set of machinery, when are we going to get the Central Board to give a satisfactory decision? I hope Congress will put down its foot on this constant creation of additional organisations. Rather in the place of this would I see them setting up a permanent authority.

Mr. W. LANDER (Co-operative Wholesale Society) : I want to ask about this Council of auxiliary bodies. What is it? I cannot find out from the Board, for it says at one time it is going to be an educational body, and at another time it is an advisory body. It seems to me it is the wrong end up altogether. We at the Co-operative Wholesale Society have no objection to help all we can to make the movement more perfect, but we do find a difficulty in reading anything into this of a practical nature. There is a danger of us getting over-organised. Organise by all means, but for heaven's sake do not create bodies for the sake of increasing organisation! I would be glad if the committee would tell us precisely what the functions of this committee are. As far as I can see it is going to cost a very considerable sum and with nothing to come of it of a practical result.

Mr. A. MANN (Leicester) : It is a great pity the Wholesale, when they thought of this, did not take the opinion of this Congress. I should like to say that the idea of the Education Sub-committee in connection with this Advisory Council was this: that it should take the place of the present Central Educational Committee, and that therefore that committee would be carried on on a broader basis; and this Council is a council representing nearly all the activities of the movement in connection with education. We believe that such a council would be able to so represent the needs of all sections of the movement that the executives elected would be able to carry out the wishes of the movement better. There has been added the committee

on general purposes, and the reason for this is just as important. Here you have a body representing nearly the whole of the co-operative movement, and by meeting together these few times they will advise the committee on matters that could hardly receive proper attention in any other way. This matter has to be considered on the wide view of the movement as a whole.

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry): What is to be the position of those organisations not now affiliated? Is it the object of the Union to allow them to become affiliated?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: The gentleman dealing with the report on behalf of the committee will reply to some of these questions. At present we can only admit co-operative bodies.

Mr. J. H. MIHELL (Portsea Island): What is the position of the Survey Committee with regard to the A.U.C.E.? Do they deal with the A.U.C.E. as the only body representing the employees of the movement, or do they recognise the fact that it is as much an outside body as an inside body?

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section), on the proposal to set up a permanent salaried executive of the Union, agreed in the main with the recommendations of the Survey Committee and with the idea that the Central Board should be the committee of the Union. In the 'eighties it became the committee of the Union. He agreed that this committee should have full control of the work of the Union by meeting every three months and by having its Executive and Finance Committees meeting every six weeks. These committees might, if necessary, appoint sub-committees. If that were done the administrative needs of the Union would be fully met. One of the difficulties mentioned by the Survey Committee was the difficulty of getting men from all parts of the country. He objected to the appointment of the salaried committee because it was not necessary; because it was not a democratic method of carrying on the work of the committee; and because the salaried Executive would, to a large extent, take the work out of the hands of the elected body who were not paid or paid on a very small scale. On the other hand, it would become a bureaucratic system of government, to which the movement objected. Bureaucracy was the bane of the government of this country, and if it were adopted in the Co-operative Union it would be the bane of that. His next objection was on the financial ground. It was a great pity to waste money, and they would have to spend about £4,000 or £5,000 a year if the Congress agreed to the appointment of a committee of that kind. The funds of the Union would not stand that strain. At the end of 1917 there was a balance of only £200 of income over expenditure. The Union had an income of £18,959 from subscriptions, and a little over £900 from other sources; but they had practically arrived at the limit of expenditure. It was quite true that societies could be asked to subscribe more money, but it was not a wise policy. (The time expired before Mr. Johnston had finished.)

The GENERAL SECRETARY: Seeing that the whole of the report by the Survey Committee is being sent back, and in view of resolutions to come on, we need not have much discussion on the permanent executive.

There was considerable confusion as to how matters stood, and delegates were interjecting remarks.

The PRESIDENT: I have had to explain the position on several occasions, and it is rather difficult. It has been decided to work this report through in "compartments." The first compartment was to be dealt with and completed by 4-30; it is now 4-30, and I therefore declare this discussion closed.

There were protests from various quarters, delegates wanting to vote.

The PRESIDENT: The discussion is simply from an educational point of view; and I understand that the Standing Orders Committee have agreed.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper): I move we take the next compartment.

The Congress agreed.

The PRESIDENT: You have decided to close the discussion on this department, and Mr. Millerchip will move the second one

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) then moved the second part of the Survey Committee's report, which dealt with the organisation of retail societies, &c. He said: We have made investigations, and we are now submitting to you the report; and we want your opinion regarding the proposals to be made. They are based on our experience, as the result of our inquiries, made without any feelings of unfriendliness or hostility to any section of the movement. It is impossible to deal with details of this character in the space of ten minutes; therefore my intention is to second this part of the Survey Committee's report and then reply to criticisms. You will notice at the end of the report the appendix. The figures there—for which we are indebted to Professor Hall—are, in my opinion, most valuable, and are the best information ever submitted to the co-operative movement. You will see suggestions made with regard to propaganda. A movement of our magnificence was not working efficiently with only one organiser. If we intend to deal with the movement and its principles in all parts of the United Kingdom, we must employ at least ten organisers; and we should be prepared to do it. We have never had the information before us before to show where the weak spots existed. We are satisfied that so far as the future of the movement is concerned all capital should be placed at its disposal as far as possible. Capital, as regards societies, is restricted, and all restrictions should be swept away. After this war there will be a demand for capital such as we have never had in the history of our movement; and I believe—because you will have Government securities presented in popular form in the way of War Bonds and War Savings Certificates—it will be necessary for us to increase interest to more than 5 per cent, as it is essential to have capital. It is said we have capital enough—more than we can use. If that is so, it is lack of business enterprise if we cannot use for the interest and the benefit of our movement all the capital we can obtain. If you will look at the end, you will find the figures showing the percentage of reserve funds held by the societies in the various sections and various parts of the kingdom, and I think we

shall all agree that these amounts are inadequate for the safety, the security, and the development of the societies. Therefore we urge societies to increase the reserve funds. We realise that in the future competition will be of a different character from what we have had to face before, and we want to devise a scheme whereby we can retain in the locality the local sentiment of patriotism, of local interest, because if you analyse balance sheets you will find loyalty among members decreasing where there is less of that local sense of patriotism, of what used to be looked upon as their own society. We suffered on account of disloyalty during the pre-war period, and we want to profit by experience and to do all we can to maintain loyalty.

The Congress then adjourned for the day.





THIRD DAY OF CONGRESS.



WEDNESDAY, 22nd MAY, 1918.



MORNING SITTING.

On taking the chair at the opening of the session on Wednesday, the PRESIDENT said: We are now on our last lap. I think up to the present the Congress has proceeded exceedingly well. The discussions on the whole have been satisfactory. I will ask the Secretary to read a statement from the Standing Orders Committee, which I hope the Congress will accept unanimously, so that we can proceed with the business and finish Congress before we rise to-day.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: The Standing Orders Committee recommend Congress to adjourn any further discussion on the report of the Survey Committee, but to take the Enfield Highway resolution and the Woolwich amendment. The amendment sent in by the North-Western Educational Association and the Leek and Moorlands Society would then be held over, and, if necessary, could again be sent in next year, when the report is finally considered. If this is agreed to, the report will be printed for circulation and discussion in the various sections and districts.

The PRESIDENT: I think that we might agree unanimously to that.

A DELEGATE: I should like to know whether the Co-operative Wholesale Society or the Central Board are taking steps to attend the private traders' meeting in Picton Hall to-morrow night?

The PRESIDENT: We cannot deal with that. It has nothing to do with the business here. I take it that the Liverpool members are sufficiently alert on the matter.

SURVEY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mrs. E. D. HOOD (Enfield Highway) : I have come here to move the following resolution :—

Seeing that no adequate consideration has been given by the movement to the proposals of the Survey Committee, Congress directs that those parts of the report dealing with the constitution and administrative system be referred back for discussion by societies; and at the same time a committee of nine be appointed by societies immediately after Congress to draw up proposals based on (1) the democratic principle of direct election from societies of the Executive of the movement (and any other committees desirable); (2) the adjustment of work so as to meet most effectively the demands made by new co-operative policies and developments; and (3) the freedom of auxiliary bodies from official control. Further, that steps be taken to secure the issue, in convenient form, of both sets of proposals in time for full discussion by the movement before next Congress.

We were told yesterday by our Chairman that the United Board are willing to accept the Woolwich amendment and send the report back for further consideration. We are all agreed on that point. A report which has taken three years to consider, and during last year has cost £861, has no right to be put in our hands ten days before being accepted. I think it is quite right to accept the Woolwich amendment and send the report back for further consideration. I want to draw attention to the other part of the resolution, which proposes that a small committee be appointed after this Congress. We want some fresh ideas on this question. The old committee might have been all right three years ago; things have altered since then. The movement is in quite a different position now. Women also are in a different position. We were of very little consequence three years ago; we are now being wooed by everybody outside the movement. With regard to the auxiliary bodies, if we accept this suggestion in the report we are going to handicap the whole of the movement. As regards the auxiliary bodies, the Students' Fellowship is "a dead-and-alive" institution—the Men's Guild is in its infancy; it has done good work, but it is handicapped very much by war conditions. The Women's Guild had got to maturity. We have been doing splendid pioneer work; if you place this auxiliary body under the control of the Central Board its hands will be completely tied. We have had freedom so far; we have more freedom now. We were told by Mr. Fisher last night that women have been emancipated. We are not going to be tied up with red tape; we must have free hands to carry out our programme. If we were under the control of the Union, and had a Union representative on the committee, they are taking on our policy, and will be responsible for everything that the Women's Guild does. We do not want the movement tied up by anything which we do; we want a free hand to be pioneers. We have taken up subjects which have been most unpopular; we

have taken up the question of woman's suffrage. We know what the women have done for the minimum wage. I contend that if we pass under the control of the Co-operative Union we are going to handicap the movement in its progressive work.

Mr. J. W. BURNLEY (Leeds) : I have pleasure in seconding the resolution. In doing so I speak not only as a member of the Leeds Society, but as a member of the Men's Guild. I support the women's demand, for it is necessary if we wish to develop that there should be a considerable amount of freedom. Freedom is necessary for development. Nothing is going to retard all development so much as restrictive measures. This is my first Congress. I have gathered from the attitude of the delegates on the floor that the gentlemen on the platform are not always infallible. For that reason nobody ought to set himself up as judge of one body or another. Last night we heard Mr. Fisher making a plea for education, and he urged that in order to secure a proper system we must vote in the right way, and seek out things for ourselves. The only right way is that we must have freedom to determine ourselves what is the right way. We shall make mistakes; if we do not make mistakes we shall never grow wiser. Give us your confidence; we shall never abuse that confidence. Leave it to the Executive of the Women's and Men's Guilds and other bodies to see that it is used in a wise direction. I hope that when the societies consider this scheme they will realise that in things doubtful we must have liberty—in all things we must have charity. Large hearts and wide charity will enable us to solve the great problems which confront us. I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution.

Mr. W. T. DAVIS (Woolwich) : On behalf of the Woolwich Society, I wish to move the amendment standing in their name :—

Seeing that no adequate consideration has been given by the movement to the proposals of the Survey Committee, Congress directs that the report be referred back for discussion by societies, and that steps be taken to secure the immediate issue of the report, in convenient form, for full discussion by the movement before next Congress."

He said : With regard to our Enfield Highway friends' statement that there is so much in the report that has not been considered, not enough time has been given to the report. When we consider that there are over 200 pages in the report, which has been presented at three Congresses now, we feel that owing to war conditions—the management committees have had to deal with food and wages questions and the education committees have not had time to do the work they did before the war, and thousands of our members have been unable to attend the usual meetings and conferences—the report should be referred back for further consideration. I have not yet met a single co-operator who honestly says he grasps the whole of the points in the report. At the next Congress you may bring up the report slightly amended to meet the wishes expressed at this Congress. In these matters we sometimes say that our leaders are too slow—they lead from behind; but in this matter

they have been running a little too fast. We wish for a little breathing space, so that we may know where we are. We will do everything in our way to bring it before our members, and we shall have the whole thing thoroughly discussed before coming before the next Congress.

Mr. J. H. MINELL (Portsea Island) : I beg to second the amendment. I want to put this view before Congress. Enfield Highway members have already stated that they are in agreement with this particular amendment. If they are, why have they pressed their case, except for this reason—the Enfield Highway have just one particular grievance : the auxiliary bodies are not receiving proper consideration from the Survey Committee. They have the right to their opinion, and the amendment we now move will not alter that opinion. The Survey Committee may remain of exactly the same opinion as now, but the 1919 Congress will have the right to decide. If you are at this Congress to take up one particular point and decide upon it, then the whole thing is a failure. There are other points of far more importance, therefore it is as well that every point should go back for further consideration.

A DELEGATE : Do we understand from the Standing Orders Committee's recommendation that the issue is narrowed down to the Enfield Highway and the Woolwich amendments?

The PRESIDENT : That is so.

Mr. G. A. CURTIS (Doncaster) : I am from Doncaster, which to-day celebrates its Jubilee. I rise to support the amendment by Woolwich because I appreciate the work of the Survey Committee in submitting a report containing so much matter, but consider, with the Woolwich people, that the whole matter should go back for analysis.

Professor F. HALL : I have risen to explain the idea of the Survey Committee on this subject. Last year I appealed to you to pass the educational report in order to let us get to work. This year I want to ask you to support the Woolwich amendment that this report be considered during the coming year and decided at next year's Congress. The Survey Committee are conscious of the vast importance of the subjects included, and they are not anxious that Congress should decide upon them without adequately discussing them; and they think it should be submitted to the movement during the year after they have completed it. The contrast between the Woolwich and the Enfield amendments is simply a question of the separate committee. If you adopt the Enfield resolution you adopt the report in all its parts, except the constitution. The Survey Committee do not want the report adopted at this Congress; they want the movement to consider it during the coming year.

A DELEGATE : I protest against the action of the Woolwich amendment getting all the say.

The PRESIDENT : I do not know the people I call upon. I do not know whether they are for the Woolwich amendment or not.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) : I have not, during all those years' membership of Congress, taken up a minute's time in speaking. I support the Woolwich amendment, so that societies may have time—and also

the committee—to reconsider and discuss the matter. It is suggested by the Enfield Society that we should have another committee, and if we adopt that we will never get on, or it will be a case of one committee surveying another committee's work. "Freedom for the auxiliary bodies"—that is a very invidious proposal. The co-operative movement, or Congress, have never tried to curtail the freedom of anybody. The co-operative movement, and Congress, have always set themselves up to work on this principle; and, whether your name is concerned, whether your money, whether you have seats on the administrative bodies of the Union, the Union should maintain its position. Congress, with no uncertain voice, should insist that this matter be reconsidered.

Mrs. E. D. HOOD: I must say I am very sorry the Congress decided only to hear the seconder of the resolution and myself, and received five speakers on the other amendment.

The PRESIDENT: The Congress has gone on for the past two days very cordially, and I would not like the Congress to break up with the feeling that there is any partiality. I do not know the people who wish to speak, or their views, and I do not know whether they are for or against; nor would I be worthy of the position I hold if I did.

Mrs. E. D. HOOD, replying to the various speakers, said that the resolution was that this small committee be appointed to go into the democratic principle of direct election to the Executive from the movement. Her idea was that that committee would help the Survey Committee to draw up a few fresh ideas on this question—not to make a fresh survey report. The next point was to deal with the adjustment of work to meet the new co-operative development and policy. There had been developments during last year. There ought to be something in the survey report with regard to the alteration and development of policy. In reply to Mr. Hainsworth, who said that the auxiliary bodies had never been restrained, she asked: Has the Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee not been restrained during the past seven months? They have been restrained; and in moving my resolution I pointed out that the Women's Guild had been repeatedly restrained, and would be more restrained in the future.

The Enfield Highway resolution was put to the vote alongside the Woolwich amendment, and the Congress adopted the latter.

This closed the discussion on the Survey Committee's report.

NATIONAL POLICY.

(See Report 38, page 299.)

Professor F. HALL submitted the report dealing with National Co-operative Policy. During the past year, he said, the policy and programme submitted at Swansea had been discussed at a great many conferences. In the light of the experiences gained, the programme and policy had been modified slightly. A vast amount of good work had been done, and about forty or fifty societies had recently altered their rules in order to increase

facilities for taking capital from their members. The concentration of attack upon vital matters connected with the development of the movement was made possible by the development of the programme. He asked the Congress to approve of the points of the policy as set forth in the report. If delegates would compare those points with the points set out last year they would notice one item—the better housing of the people—which, he thought, they would all agree, was a subject of vital importance. As co-operators we must take a collective interest in this subject as well as an individual interest as citizens. The political programme also found a place in the “policy,” and it was part of the movement’s policy to achieve the political programme adopted at the Emergency Conference in October and to secure the direct representation of co-operators in Parliament and on local government and administrative bodies. He hoped that in the societies and at conferences during the coming year the national policy in all its points would be explained. This year the committee had printed, in italics, some of the more important points of the programme. One of the most important of these was with reference to capital. As things were now, even for the same amount of trade the societies required twice as much capital as before the war. Stocks were of twice the value, though no greater in volume. The same thing applied to the Wholesales, and the Wholesales wanted more capital. He hoped co-operators would concentrate their attention upon this important point. Depreciation and reserves should have careful attention at the present time. Societies should not be tempted by falling prices and a desire to maintain dividends. There was almost certain to be a reaction, after the war, which might require all the reserves and depreciation funds they possessed. We hope the war will soon be over; and if we wanted to have reconstruction, not merely a restoration of old conditions—we must be preparing our constructive plans. Connected with the question of capital were the questions of insurance and banking. Co-operators were asked to do their best not only as co-operative servants, but as a means of providing additional capital for co-operative institutions. After-the-war problems, he pointed out, were also mentioned in the national programme, and there were other matters dealt with, too, that he did not want to take up time with at the Congress. He hoped, however, these points would all be talked about at conferences and at the members’ meetings—and not only talked about, but thought about and acted upon.

Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South-Western Section): You said it was a shame when Mr. Hainsworth told you that he had never spoken to you at Congress before. I confess that I have not spoken before; you may not say shame, because as I am a parson you may think it a virtue. We have now come to a refreshing interlude in our Congress. Here is something that means a tremendous amount of work, which we believe to be necessary for the achievement of our purpose. More than ever is it necessary to-day that this great movement should know what it is out to achieve, and should know how it is going to achieve it. Here is a programme and policy. We have had a very interesting conference, which has shown a very variable difference of individual opinion on procedure and other matters contingent to our move-

ment. Here is a matter on which I feel that there is a common agreement. We have got to know how we can get on with our movement. It has been said by Professor Hall that the value of this part of the report is that we are not simply here to devise how we can reconstruct the old world, but rather how we can construct a new world. This programme and policy is something positive, something constructive; it takes us out of the wilderness of vagueness and places us on the higher road of achievement. It does something to co-ordinate and consolidate our movement, and concentrate our movement so that we may achieve our objects. The policy and programme express our co-operation. I believe in the inexhaustible possibilities of the co-operative movement.

Miss E. E. M. ALLEN (Croydon) : With regard to the policy, I think that it is necessary that we should have more capital to work with. For some years now I have advocated that more capital should be used in the movement, and, what is more important, that capital should be used for production. We do want more production in the movement, and without capital we cannot do it. As regards education, the report states that the policy is to stimulate all forms of educational effort. How do they propose to do this? They have taken the North-Western Educational Association's resolution and referred it back to the Survey Committee. As to the after-war problems, I hope that we shall not leave it until we have finished the war before we prepare our machinery. I do hope that we shall go back to our societies and show that not only do we propose these things, but also that they are acted upon. There is too much talk generally.

Mr. T. BIRD (Ipswich) : I want to direct particular attention to the point in regard to capital, and to suggest to the Co-operative Union that in urging societies to persuade members to invest more capital they might have gone a step further and have urged societies to recognise that the true co-operative development must depend upon them passing that capital through the federal institutions of the movement. I mention this because there is a part of the Survey Committee's report which suggests the setting up of a special investment society and a special banking society. ("No!") A delegate says "No." If he refers to the report he will find this reference. We have got to be very careful in our future development in reference to capital in the movement; if we desire to develop we must develop on stable lines. I have yet to learn that the Co-operative Wholesale Society is hampered, or likely to be hampered, by surplus funds. On the other hand, there are those of us who have been urging the Co-operative Wholesale Society to so develop and get hold of the raw material and buy up the earth. If we want them to buy the earth, we must provide the movement with the necessary capital. Then, with reference to banking, we already have every form of banking done by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. We are now proposing to split up the banking facilities. I hope that these two points will receive careful attention when the report is considered by the societies.

Mr. W. KERR (St. George's, Glasgow) said : This report is very much

overburdened. A most important part, to my mind, is the item which refers to overlapping. It has surprised me many times to think that in the co-operative movement societies in various districts are competing with each other. I believe in starting to make things right from the inside first. There are many things mentioned in the report; for example, the payment of labour. We know we pay labour according to conditions named here, but we know there are boundary lines which we consider to be "scraps of paper" in the movement. The only reason against amalgamation is the divinity of dividends paid by the various societies. I think we have reached a stage in a Congress such as this that we ought to be able to concentrate our idea, and the only way to do it is for every delegate here to realise the potentialities of the movement. I hope that with the after-the-war period of reconstruction there will be a possibility of us coming together more and considering the question seriously of amalgamation of societies in the cities at least.

Mr. W. J. ROGERS (Northampton), referring to items 13 and 14, said Mr. Ramsay has told us how to achieve the programme laid down before us. I am intensely interested in the business aspect of this survey, and at the proper time I shall have something to say about it, but I am prepared to say to this Congress that there is an indefiniteness as to how to achieve our programme. I remember attending two Congresses to see if we could not secure direct representation in the House of Commons, and after a full and very careful deliberation by the members of co-operative societies present they unanimously came to the conclusion that it was impossible to achieve our programme if we attempted to fight with one of our hands tied behind us. They decided that the only possible way for the co-operative movement to achieve its programme was to see that we go unitedly together with the other friends of our forces in the trade unions and the Labour movement. I see heads shaking; it is those heads I want to get something into. You may as well go and throw your money in the Mersey as attempt alone. I appeal to the delegates to this Congress to go home to their different sections and have the courage to tell them. The rank and file are ready at heart, it only needs the leadership, and to get them to back you up; and the next time you will get some co-operators in the House of Commons with democracy behind them.

Mr. F. GOULD (Bristol and Somerset District): I believe the secret lies in knowing the psychology of our time. I want the Congress to take two things home, those two great questions—education and housing. The Local Government Board said you could not expect private enterprise to build houses. They have recognised it; you can admit it. Are we to go back to the landlord, jerry-building housing of the past? When I looked on the tenements at Birkenhead, and when I heard the Mayor talk about "Suburbia," I realised he did not tell the whole story. Seize the power on your local organisations. Get the administration of your County Councils. How many county councillors are there in this hall. Are you prepared to sacrifice a little of your dividend to remedy the filth and ignominious housing of the women and children—the slaves of the workers?

Professor F. HALL : I want to make it clear that this programme is submitted by the Central Board and the other recommendations are submitted by the Survey Committee. Any true co-operator will not fail to do his duty by existing institutions, even although he thinks them bad. Further, I would point out that it is emphasised in these recommendations to societies that all surplus capital should be sent to the Wholesale with due regard to co-operative production. I do not think we can do much in regard to overlapping when the societies themselves are not prepared to move. In Glasgow, particularly, this is a shame, and there is difficulty in moving where local initiative is lacking. I agree with Mr. Gould in regard to housing and education, and I hope you will concentrate on this. Both of these should be for use and not for profit.

The PRESIDENT : All those in favour of the National Policy Report please signify.

Loud cries of "Aye" was the delegates' signification.

CONCILIATION BOARDS.

(See Report 39, page 302.)

Mr. W. BROWN (South-Western Section) introduced the report dealing with Conciliation Boards, and said the report should give the Congress furiously to think. There had been infinite trouble, and it was a lesson to the movement for having encouraged an organisation working contrary to trade union principles. Proceeding, he said : The organiser of this union (the A.U.C.E.) comes into our town. Our employees are organised and we cannot complain about that, but what we are entitled to complain of is that the work, so far as that organiser is concerned, is complete then. Take a small town. The only distributive employees who are organised are the co-operative employees. In some of these small towns we are paying at least 100 per cent more to our employees than our competitors, who are perhaps doing a much larger trade. ("Question.") He argued that the capacity of a society to supply goods on the most favourable terms was limited by its inability to compete with establishments whose workers were sweated. The remedy was industrial organisation, and when we got that it would be the rule that every employee should be a member of a union eligible for affiliation to the Trades Union Congress.

The PRESIDENT : That is not a phase of the question which should be brought before the Congress on this report.

Mr. BROWN : These Conciliation Boards should never have been adopted.

Mr. J. E. KILBURN (Dewsbury) expressed the hope that during the coming year there would be more satisfactory results from the work of the Conciliation Boards. They had had a dispute in their district with the A.U.C.E. The question had been referred to the District Board and then to the National Board. Dewsbury had no less than five agreements with the craft unions in the district, but he asked the delegates to imagine their surprise when they

get an award that could not be interpreted, or that could not be put into effect, without violating the agreements they had with the separate unions.

The GENERAL SECRETARY explained that a sub-committee had been appointed to meet an equal number of members of the A.U.C.E. Executive to discuss how this trouble could be amended. It would be dealt with after the Congress.

The report on Conciliation Boards was then adopted.

HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS.

(See Report 40, page 307.)

Mr. J. S. ARMITAGE (Huddersfield) : As regards the Conciliation Board and the Hours and Wages Board, I should like to ask whether there is any overlapping in the movement with regard to these bodies? Can anybody draw a distinction between the Hours and Wages Board and an ordinary employers' association? This body, to my mind, is nothing more or less than an employers' association. Whatever people may think of the Hours and Wages Board I consider they should also include the employees. Without the assistance of the trade union element these Boards are not the best bodies for dealing with these matters. I protest against the constitution of an Hours and Wages Board which excluded the employees.

Mr. F. J. NORRIS (Liverpool) : I entirely disagree with the last speaker; I do so as a member of a Wages Board. The only thing we do is to get together a certain number of societies in a given area to discuss the wages demanded by the A.U.C.E. If the Hours and Wages Board, which was a combination of societies' representatives, was an employers' organisation then it follows that the societies are only employers' organisations too. We are combined together in order not to be exploited by one trade union, and that the societies shall not be made to pay more than is paid by other establishments in the same district. We give the craft union wages the employees are able to demand in the district. If the assistants come to us and state that they are getting a certain wage at any other big shop the co-operative society is the first to say "We will give you the same."

The GENERAL SECRETARY : The Hours and Wages Board is a very good Board if properly used. It exists to deal with applications from members of other unions, besides the A.U.C.E. The Board is prepared to take up collectively in any district the question of hours and wages of the employees, and is not confined to dealing with members of the A.U.C.E.

WAR EMERGENCY—WORKERS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

(See Report 41, page 307.)

Mr. J. A. SMITH (Burton-on-Trent) : One point I wish to draw attention to is the point in the last paragraph—the question of the war costs and how

to reduce them. You will notice in one paragraph that the War Emergency Committee suggest the conscription of wealth. These proposals have been supported by the Trades Union Congress, the Labour Party, and the Miners' Federation Executive. I desire to claim that a proposal of this nature should receive the support of the co-operative movement. I will just present it to you in the form of a light analogy. Under the Act which conscripted human life on a certain appointed day every man between certain ages was deemed to be a soldier, and proposals for the conscription of wealth is precisely applicable as that.

The PRESIDENT : It has been dealt with, and is merely referred to in this report. There is no proposal put forward for the conscription of wealth.

Mr. SMITH : I am asking for the support not necessarily of this Congress, but of the movement.

The PRESIDENT : We cannot deal with this. We shall have to take it up in a constitutional form. If you desire that it should be dealt with you can send in a resolution applicable to it for the next Congress.

HOUSING AFTER THE WAR.

(See Report 43, page 310.)

Mr. J. DIMBERLINE (Brightside and Carbrook, Sheffield) : I want to draw the attention of the co-operative movement to the question of housing after the war. There are in existence two or three—five, I think—Housing Councils belonging to the democracy of this country, which are formulating schemes for after the war. Alongside of that the President of the Local Government Board has promised, in face of probable difficulties of finance, that his department will finance, to a certain extent, housing schemes after the war. In the other movement, the Labour movement, they have certain schemes. I went to a housing conference arranged by the Trades Union Congress at Blackpool last year. I went expecting to find co-operative societies well represented, seeing it was such an important conference; to my surprise, however, there were very few co-operative societies represented, and when I made a claim for co-operative societies to share in the money promised I was told the co-operative movement never asked for outside financial help. But things are altogether altered. The Government are advancing money after the war for the pressing problem of housing, and if we do not claim our share and join up with the democratic forces we shall be left out in the cold.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : The Union has already taken this matter up and has brought the matter prominently before societies. If a society can see its way to go in for housing now is the time to make application. We suggest that a certain sum of money be put aside for the co-operative movement, and that we should have the same facilities granted after the war as are given to municipalities. It now rests with societies to press forward; if they put in their applications we will see they are put through.

ORGANISATION OF ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOTMENT HOLDERS.

(See Report 44, page 310.)

Mr. J. TYLDESLEY (Eccles) : I have joined an allotment association and I have had some wounds of conscience since I joined. We ought to be very careful in joining such bodies when we find they are in open competition with existing co-operative societies. They can go to the Co-operative Wholesale Society and get spades and seeds. I just mention this matter by way of warning.

Mr. J. A. EDWARDS (Liverpool) : The allotments question is one very closely allied with the housing question. There must be breathing space around each house, and healthy recreation for the tenant in the space. The Agricultural Organisation Society are organising allotment holders into becoming landowning associations, which will become a menace to the co-operative movement, and, under the franchise, the allotmenteer has got political powers. They are prepared almost to a man to go our way if we will properly organise them, but we have this competition of the Agricultural Organisation Society, and neither the Co-operative Union nor the Co-operative Wholesale Society are making anything like a successful, energetic effort to meet the Agricultural Organisation Society, notwithstanding that last year no less than 20,000 new allotments were opened and between 20 and 30 this year. It has been proved that there is a land hunger, and it has got to be catered for, and our movement is well capable of catering for it.

THE WOMEN'S GUILDS.

(See Report 53, page 316.)

Mr. J. J. CARDING (Leek and Moorlands) : I wish to draw attention to the paragraph containing the refusal of the Central Board to make the grant of £400 to the English Women's Guild. The position affects vitally one of our principal auxiliary bodies, with its magnificent record of accomplished work, and standing, as it does, as one of the most important women's organisation in the kingdom. It is officially recognised and consulted by Government Departments on national questions affecting women and children, and it is a body which we ought to be proud of—and the majority of us are—and with the able secretary, Miss Margaret Llewelyn Davies. The guild has been built up on democratic principles and this has necessitated years of free service and financial sacrifice to attain its present position and influence. Must all this now become subservient to the will and supreme control of the Central Board, which, with two exceptions, is composed of men? The recognition at last of their claims by granting votes to six million women is an important factor in the history of the movement. This necessitates immediate action, and the guild is already taking steps to mould the minds of women politically. Is it reasonable to ask these guildswomen to give up the control of their guild just as they have got political freedom? Are they to accept in our movement only the political and co-operative wisdom of men? No! Let them benefit from

our experience, but leave them the initiative to work out their many problems in the near future. Only by this means shall we strengthen an already useful auxiliary. If the Jubilee Congress shows a new spirit to the guild it will be a milestone in the history of the movement. I hope next year's report will show that we have given the grant. I implore that the women should have the grant to carry out a very glorious work.

Mrs. E. A. WILKIN (Hartlepool) : You notice it says we may have the £400 "on condition," and I want to know, here and now, the condition whereby we can have this. We do not want it under false pretences. We want to work with a free hand to help everybody connected with the movement. Each and every one here should know what work we do. We want the money, but we want it unfettered.

Mrs. W. JEFFREY (Southampton) : I think the principle is wrong when a spendly organisation like the guild, which is doing work of such inestimable value, should have to come, cap in hand, and be told that if we behave like good children we shall get it. I do hope that this will be recognised and we shall have a different answer from the Central Board.

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry) : We have been told by the members of the Central Board that there were no conditions, and if we were sensible women we would ask no questions; and we were told we have no political sagacity or we would not have asked questions. We have been the scavengers that have had to clear away the prejudices; we have done the educating of the women and showed them how to use their votes, and we will use the votes well in the interests of the movement—if you will only let us. I hope Congress is going to tell us that they realise the benefit we are to the movement.

Mrs. J. E. BOOTH (Derby) said the guild members have felt the position very keenly in recent years. They did not call their organisation an auxiliary body. The guildswomen looked upon themselves as a wing of the co-operative movement, and as a big wing. They had 27,000 members, and if it had not been for the men the membership would have been very greatly increased. She would not have cared if the matter of the grant had come before Congress in the first instance and the Congress had decided to withhold the grant, but it was the Co-operative Union that did it. Reverting to the cause of the dispute she said, we did not want to alter the law, but to reform it. We wanted women to be served the same as men. You have heard all during this Congress that the Union has got a lot of work to do. We women want to help the Union. We have never taken up a question detrimental to the movement as a whole. We claim this money as a right. Where, I ask, does the Union get the money? From the societies. Where do the societies get the money from? They get it from the women. The men give us the money to spend and we spend it. If we did not spend it in the stores where would the Union and its grants be?

There were calls for the vote to be taken. Mr. HANDYSIDE (United Baking Society, Glasgow), from the back gallery, tried several times to catch the President's eye.

The PRESIDENT called upon Mr. Goodenough to reply, but Mr. Handyside tried to make himself heard.

The PRESIDENT : Please take your seat, Mr. Goodenough will reply.

Mr. GOODENOUGH, in the course of his reply, said : I was asked a definite question about the conditions concerning this grant. An application was made last October for a renewal of the grant of £400. The Central Board decided unanimously to make the grant on the same conditions as it has made to, and which has been continuously accepted by, the Scottish and Irish guilds. As to the question of freedom, he was sorry a Scotch lady was not allowed to put her point of view. At the back of the minds of the Central Board there was no question of censorship, but they were bound by the rules laid down at the Congresses, and if there was any meaning in the term "conditions" it meant the conditions imposed upon the Central Board by the Congress. The situation could be more easily explained if the delegates had studied John Stuart Mill's essay on "Liberty," where he points out that members of associations like ours are bound to have their individual liberty restricted on account of being members. If we enter into an organisation like the Congress we are bound to have some kind of rules and regulations. The women are not so unanimous as might appear there that day. The Central Board have agreed to offer to meet the Women's Guild to talk over this particular problem and to see if they could persuade them (the women) as to the error of their ways in this particular case.

The subject was then departed from.

A DELEGATE : I desire to call attention to the entire omission from the report of the Central Board of any statement as to the work of the National Men's Guild. I do not think that the National Men's Guild are seeking sentimental patronage from the Central Board with regard to the work which they are doing, but I do say that whatever little work has been done should be recorded in the report of the Central Board.

The PRESIDENT : You will find a reference to the guild in the report of the Education Committee. This was dealt with last Monday. The report states : "The National Co-operative Men's Guild has continued its work under great difficulties during the past year. Further calls have been made upon the membership of the guild for service in the Forces, and the work of the branches has suffered in consequence. We believe that there is a great future before the guild, as many inquiries are being received from persons anxious to establish branches in connection with their societies."

DECEASED CO-OPERATORS.

(See Report 57, page 320.)

The list of co-operators who have died since the last Congress was submitted.

The PRESIDENT : This is one of the sad features inevitable in life. We regret the loss of men and women who have done good service in their

particular sphere in connection with the co-operative movement. The least we can do is to send to their families and relatives our sympathy and condolence.

The delegates intimated their approval by rising in their places.

FRENCH DELEGATES' LEAVE TAKING.

Mons. DAUDE-BANCEL : Mr. President and fellow-co-operators, the time has arrived when we, the French co-operative delegates, must return to Paris, and this moment, which has arrived all too soon, proves to us once more that the good things do not last for long. We have spoken to our good British friends, and we have noted with satisfaction that the future holds for us closer and more cordial relations; that unity will result in bringing about a co-operation more complete, and, again, above all, the valuable and inestimable help which the great British nation has brought to France and to the Allies fighting for the liberty of the world. The present war is not, as some people believe, simply an economic war. It is a war for freedom! The war must make sure the triumph of right over brute force. The war must protect the little as well as the great nations from the abuse of force and "scraps of paper." After the war, thanks to co-operation generally, we shall be able to organise the world on a co-operative plan. We shall organise consumers and producers for the benefit of all and not of some privileged capitalists. For this great and noble work of social reconstruction, and especially among the down-trodden nations, we count largely for the support of English co-operators. To Britain, who is fighting with the Allies for right in the world, we offer our fraternal greetings, and to you cordially say "Good-bye."

Mons. and Madame Daudé-Bancel and Mons. Waseige were given a hearty send-off by the Congress.

RESOLUTIONS FROM SOCIETIES.

CONSTITUTION OF JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

Mr. S. F. PERRY (Birkenhead) moved a resolution on behalf of the Liverpool societies as follows :—

That the Parliamentary interests of the co-operative movement, as regards administration and legislation, should be delegated to a committee responsible to the Co-operative Union, and that the two Wholesale Societies and any other co-operative organisation, of which the Congress shall approve, and which is concerned with the work of the Parliamentary Committee, shall appoint special representatives on the committee, and that the Central Board present a report within six months for circulation to the sections and district associations in sufficient time for consideration previous to next year's Congress, as to the number and method of election of the committee, and the organisation which should be represented thereon.

Mr. JARMAN (Warrington) seconded, and the resolution was agreed to by the Congress without a discussion.

The resolution moved by Mr. Perry, as originally framed, provided that the report should be prepared by the Survey Committee and presented to the Central Board for circulation. Birmingham Industrial Society submitted an amendment providing that the Central Board should present a report on the subject. The Co-operative Productive Federation had also sent in an amendment, including the Federation in the text of the resolution following the reference to the two Wholesale Societies.

The GENERAL SECRETARY intimated that the Board would accept the Productive Federation's amendment if the Congress agreed, and that this would apply also to the Birmingham amendment. ("Agreed.")

Mr. F. H. WEST (Plymouth) said the Parliamentary Committee wanted shaking up. The Plymouth management committee had found out what the Chancellor of the Exchequer was doing when the Parliamentary Committee did not know.

The PRESIDENT: Seeing that the committee have practically accepted these amendments, may I put the resolution? Those in favour, please vote. The Liverpool resolution is carried.

PROPOSED INCOME TAX INQUIRY.

Mr. C. GREIG (Manchester and Salford): I have pleasure in proposing the following resolution:—

That in view of the fact that the majority of co-operators are, through the heavy taxes paid by co-operative societies under Schedules A and B, bearing taxation for which they are not liable, and in view of the agitation to secure the imposition of special taxation upon co-operative trade and trading surpluses, and the proposal of the Government to undertake an inquiry after the war in regard to income tax, this Congress instructs the Central Board to establish a committee of inquiry into the question of taxation and assessment of co-operative societies, this committee to consist of members of their own Board, officials, and other persons and organisations, who may be considered likely to promote the success of the inquiry, and that the committee of inquiry thus established be empowered to consult experts and undertake any action that may be considered germane to the inquiry.

The question is dealt with under three aspects. It is not my purpose to labour it. I only want to make out a *prima facie* case for the passing of the resolution. I do not want to talk of income tax generally, particularly at this late hour of the session. I propose, therefore, to curtail my remarks. I will lay special stress on the first point as regards Schedule A and B. Perhaps I ought to remind you that Schedule A is the classification under which we have to pay taxes on our shops, and when we have warehouses, cottages, houses, and other property. Schedule B affects those societies which are

doing their own farming. We are, therefore, paying income tax, notwithstanding that the private trader is always telling us that we are absolutely free from taxation. Last August I sent a letter which the editor of the *Co-operative News* inserted, in which I pointed out that as far as I could estimate we were paying a quarter of a million in income tax under those two schedules. This is only an approximation; it may be not quite correct. I remind you of it as being sufficient to show that this is not a matter to be trifled with, and that it is time we seriously took it up. There are a couple of facts I want to remind you of. Income tax is a tax on the individual; for the purposes of collection the tax is imposed on the property. If any owners of property are not liable for the tax at 5s. in the £ they have a right to reclaim it. If our societies had been an ordinary capitalistic concern we could have reclaimed this, as hundreds of thousands are doing. The real fact is that 95 out of every 100 co-operators it is recognised are not liable for the tax, which means a difference on your dividend and mine. Why not claim it back? For this reason, that neither you nor I know how much is being paid. We ask that a committee should be appointed to take up this question and deal with this particular aspect. We are asking for a special committee to be appointed, composed of individuals who from their special ability or experience are able to give efficient help, and also that it shall be a committee not encumbered by a multitude of other details, which it would be hardly able to get through.

Mr. J. SHARPLES (Blackburn Industrial): I desire to second the resolution. It is a committee of inquiry. We want the facts. We want to be ready for the time when it comes. We want to have our case co-ordinated and the machinery all at hand. We want to understand every phase of the problem—how it touches societies and the individual; and how far any suggestion, however sinister, may affect us. Do not let us be in the position of having something in Parliament thrown at us and having to make up our minds in ten minutes. Let us have confidence in our case, and then we can go to the opposition without fear or favour.

Mr. T. M. YOUNG (Eccles): I support the resolution sent in by Manchester and Salford. This is a question societies ought to have pronounced their opinion on years ago. Immediately the income tax is advanced from 9d. to 5s. in the £ it is time the co-operative movement wakened up. In the case of my own society, on the rateable value of the premises on which we are assessed we are charged £610 over and above the amount we ought to pay for the year. As mentioned, a man who has less than £2,000 per annum is enabled to reclaim 2s. in the £, but it is not done. The Co-operative Union ought to take a test case. The Chancellor of the Exchequer says we do not pay taxes. The best way is to take the war into his camp and not leave it for him to spring it on us in our camp. I suggest we take a test case immediately.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: The matter has previously been under consideration by the Parliamentary Committee and the United Board, and it

was decided to form this committee, but they have left over the selection of the individuals until the new Board has been formed and they have seen who is serving on it. They intend to call in anybody they think competent to advise, and they will have power to call any evidence required from societies.

The resolution was agreed to unanimously.

FULL-TIME PERMANENT EXECUTIVE.

A resolution was sent in by seven societies proposing that the administration of the Co-operative Union should be controlled by a small full-time, salaried committee, representatives of the various sections of the Co-operative Union, in place of the present United Board, and that the Survey Committee should report on this subject within six months, so that it could be considered for next Congress. The resolution was withdrawn.

RELIGIOUS TEACHING.

Mr. J. WHALLEY (Great Harwood) moved—

That this Congress, in order that the purchasing power of all co-operators shall be equalised, demands that no efficient school shall be excluded from the fullest educational advantages on the ground that, in addition to teaching other subjects, it also undertakes to give definite religious teaching.

The mover said the resolution was, like the parson's egg, good in parts. It asked that no efficient school should be penalised which, in addition to teaching other subjects, undertook to give definite religious teaching. He hoped that co-operators would insist that schools should be efficient.

The resolution was formally seconded.

The PRESIDENT: I am a member of the church that is referred to in this resolution, and I think it is little short of a catastrophe that it should be brought here. I was surprised when I saw that a resolution of this nature was to be submitted to the Congress.

The resolution found only a few supporters, and was declared rejected.

AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF THE UNION.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section): There will be no dispute on what I have to move. It is just a question of the alteration of the rules which must be submitted to Congress. From the time of the setting up of the Central Board there has been no alteration in the fee allowed. We all realise what the cost of food is to-day. It is because the cost of food and the hotel expenses are higher that we are asking you to revise the rules dealing with the fees allowed. It is just the deletion of certain figures, and putting others in their place. When a member of the Board attends a meeting a fee of 2s. 6d. is allowed. We ask you to be more generous towards us and agree that we should have a fee of 5s. for a meeting instead of 2s. 6d. When we are away from home we get a fee of 10s.; if we pay 8s. for bed and breakfast

what is there left? We are asking that this 10s. should be increased to 15s. If we are away from home more than 24 hours we get a fee of 20s.; we ask that you should agree to this being increased to 25s. Most of the delegates are allowed from 15s. to £1 a day expenses when attending Congress. The members of the Central Board have received 10s. a day for Congress. We ask you to agree to this being increased in the future to 15s. a day. I will move the deletion of these figures and the substitution of the increased amounts.

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton): You have decided to refer the whole matter back.

Cries of "No, No" and "Vote!"

The GENERAL SECRETARY: If that report is referred back to the committee you will have to be prepared to wait a long time before the fees can be increased; it may be possible that an alteration cannot be made even at the next Congress if you have to wait for approval of the Survey Report. The proposal is put forward so that the new scale of fees can come into operation immediately, and not to be held up for two years.

The PRESIDENT: I think it is a reasonable thing.

Mr. J. BLACKWELL (Gloucester): May I ask if the increased payments commence from the date now?

The PRESIDENT: No, but from the time of registration of the amendment.

The alterations were approved, and it was agreed that the new scale of fees should come into operation as soon as the amended rules were registered.

The GENERAL SECRETARY then read the following letter:—

"21st May, 1918.

"Dear Mr. Killon,—At the education meeting to-night Mr. Fisher, Minister of Education, made an appeal to co-operators for help in the work he was trying to do for their children. Those who were able to be present responded gladly, and promised to remember when the time of elections came. May I, through you, appeal to those who were not so fortunate as to hear Mr. Fisher, to take his message home with them, too. If our delegates do their duty every member of Parliament will get to know at an early date that co-operators are intensely interested in the future of Mr. Fisher's Bill.

"Yours faithfully,

"W. R. RAE."

GREETINGS FROM RUSSIAN CO-OPERATORS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: The following telegram has been sent to Prof. Hall, who is helping our friends in getting out the *Russian Journal*:—

"Professor Hall, Co-operative Congress, St. George's Hall, Liverpool.

"The Russian members of the Editorial Committee of the *Russian Co-operator* ask you, as fellow-member, to express to the Jubilee Congress their best greetings and wishes for the success of its work.—Balakshin, Bubnoff, Crysins, Hermer, Yarkoff."

Mrs. A. E. CORRIE (Coventry) : May I ask for an emergency resolution supporting Mr. Fisher?

The PRESIDENT declared that at this stage the proposal was out of order. The Congress proceeded with business.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.

The PRESIDENT formally moved that Mr. T. Wood be appointed the auditor for the Congress year. ("Agreed.")

INVITATIONS FOR CONGRESS OF 1919.

Mr. T. HORROCKS (Assistant Secretary) now gave detailed reports of his visits to Carlisle and Stockton-on-Tees in view of the invitations from the two towns for the next Congress.

Mr. G. RIDDLE (Carlisle), who championed the claims of Carlisle as the venue for next year's Congress, said : It is 32 years since the co-operators of Cumberland had the privilege of inviting Congress to Carlisle. Carlisle is a delightful place. It is surrounded by three rivers—I would like to suggest four, for we have the Liquor Control Board there. It is situated on a perfect garden, and where in all the British Isles can you find a place within the reach of such beautiful scenery. (A Voice : Scotland.) We have heard a great deal about Scotland, but in Carlisle there is standing a monument to show that the Scotch are second yet. For years Scotland and England contended, but Carlisle was left in the hands of the English. Nine miles from Carlisle you have Gretna, where you will find 100 miles of rails and get other evidence of the tremendous task we have to remove the difficulties preventing the present war and other wars coming to an end. Come to Carlisle and help forward the peace programme. Carlisle may not be very well adapted at the present time for hotel accommodation, but I am prepared to say that, as it was when the difficulties at Gretna came along and the Carlisle people took in 78,000 people who came to help their country, we can do it still, for the Carlisle people are used to extending hospitality. If we cannot find sufficient houses, then we can do what is done in Hyde Park, for we have a finer common than any city in England, and then we have the County Gaol for the officials of the Union. There are seven railways leading to Carlisle; in fact, Scotland, to do its business, has to come down through Carlisle. Cumbrians get the name of being mean and canny. They are not. I am sure they will extend to the delegates the same hospitality, and generosity, and welcome that they gave to me when I first went amongst them. We will make an effort to make the Carlisle Congress the best that has ever been held.

Mr. W. ROBINSON (Carlisle) seconded the recommendation.

TEES-SIDE ATTRACTIONS.

Mr. J. MORRISON (Stockton), in a humorous and eloquent speech, invited the Congress to Stockton-on-Tees. The only things Carlisle held out for the

delegates were tents and cells. Tees-side, on the other hand, was an important industrial area. Great developments were taking place which were of a very promising character. They have been labouring for years to attract the trade union element into the co-operative fold. If the Congress went to Stockton it would compel them all to come in. The Congress will get a hearty reception from the Tees-side. They had in Stockton a High Street a mile long and sixty yards wide, and by this means they had a free current of fresh air through the town. There was hotel accommodation. There were splendid train services, and the delegates would really have a home in the country—a palatial dwelling in the town or a home by the seaside at Saltburn. He attempted to describe the beauties of Tees-side, but he assured the delegates that if the Congress went to Stockton these beauties would reveal themselves in all their glory. The society, he added, had just completed fifty years, and the delegates could celebrate that next year.

A DELEGATE seconded.

The proposal that Carlisle should be selected was carried.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : We have next an important duty to perform in passing a vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman. I will ask Mr. Bastard to move the vote of thanks.

Mr. G. BASTARD (Midland Section) : I have been requested by the Standing Orders Committee to move the following resolution :—

That this Congress expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Killon for his excellent inaugural address, and for the kindly and just manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of Congress; and also thanks Mr. Wood for carrying out the duties of vice-president.

This Jubilee Congress was to have been held in Manchester, but owing to the horrible war our friends in Manchester told us that we could not have the Congress there. At the moment when we thought that we should have to give it up our friends at Liverpool came to the rescue. They established a Reception Committee, and now we have arrived at the finish of one of the most successful Congresses we have had. When we thought of going to Manchester we could not have had anyone more suitable as president than the chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society—the greatest spending concern in the whole world. Mr. Killon was asked to preside, and he agreed to do so. When we agreed to come to Liverpool he came here and gave us of his best. I am not going to deal with the address. I could have hoped that we might have had opportunities as an assembled body here of discussing the address. I will content myself with saying that the address is second to none from the practical standpoint. I can only hope that when you get home you will read the address in the *Co-operative News* and that you will give a most intelligent consideration to the very many points dealt with, which are worthy of consideration. You would expect from his experience in con-

ducting business that Mr. Killon would be an ideal chairman; he has risen to the occasion. The conduct of a Congress is different from the conduct of a Wholesale Society's meeting. At a Wholesale Society's meeting he grips everything in a moment, and just knows when to let go and when to tighten up. When you come to an assembly like this it is totally different. I want to say that our chairman has risen to the occasion; whilst he may have held some of us in check he has given all fair play. I am sure the Congress has never been conducted in a better way than under Mr. Killon's chairmanship. With regard to our vice-chairman, you will remember last year at Swansea Mr. Wood's services as chairman. He conducted the business in a magnificent manner. Although Mr. Wood had not to preside he had done a great deal. Having been president I can assure you that it is always an advantage to have a gentleman of experience to whisper in your ear at a certain moment, and with whom you can confer. Although we have not heard his voice we know that he has been here prepared to act if called upon. I have the delightful privilege of asking Mr. Killon to accept from the Co-operative Union a copy of a bound volume of "Industrial Co-operation." I have no doubt that he is familiar with it. I think that all the presidents are familiar with this book. It is very nice to have one amongst your library, showing the conditions under which it has been presented. I also have to present Mr. Killon with a copy of this year's "Co-operative Year Book." I will ask Mr. Wood to accept a copy of the "Year Book." He was presented last year with a copy of "Industrial Co-operation," and that is the reason he is not receiving one this year.

Mr. C. MARSHALL (Co-operative Wholesale Society): I have been asked by the Standing Orders Committee to second the resolution. I have the greatest pleasure in doing so. It has been said you must live with a man to know him. Well, I do not quite live with him, but I see a great deal of Mr. Killon, and we have learned to love him because of the conspicuous ability he has shown in presiding over the institution to which I have the privilege to belong. He has conducted the business of this Congress with conspicuous ability, and we tender to him our most sincere thanks. With respect to Mr. Wood, we were delighted with his conduct last year at Swansea and again this year, and we thank him for the genial and able way he has assisted Mr. Killon in the chair. In the first place I present to Mr. Killon a copy of the "Co-operative Wholesale Society's Annual." Oh, this is a special one, beautifully bound and inscribed, and I hope he will read it. I have also pleasure in presenting to Mr. Wood a copy of the same Annual.

Mr. WOOD: Allow me to thank you very much for the honour you have done me, in the first place by electing me the president last year, I cannot forget that, and I also thank you very much for your kindness this year. It has been a pleasure to me to be of some little service to my fellow-men in helping to conduct two Congresses. I am very pleased to be associated with the Fiftieth Congress. I cannot also, as a Welshman, forget that at the first Congress a fellow-countryman of mine presided—Thomas Hughes, and another

gentleman who took a very leading part in that Congress was Edward Owen Greening. Some words have been hovering through my mind all the week in reference to our success, and changing just a word or two we have—

Here we raise our Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help we come,
And we hope by Thy good favour
Safely to arrive at home.

—the home of the co-operative movement. The principle is in the mind, the heart, and the lives of the democracy of this country and of all countries of the world. Looking upon the success we have achieved it gives us hope that we will capture the whole mind and heart of democracy.

The PRESIDENT: I am very proud to be your chairman at a moment like this. It makes one feel very deeply to find such an expression of appreciation; and let me just add how very much indebted I am to Mr. Wood for the great kindness and assistance he has given me at this Congress. His experience has been most valuable in aiding me, for the conducting of a Congress is very much different from the conducting of a business meeting. I thank the delegates for the way in which they carried out their business. It reflects very great credit on those who have sent them. The work of the Congress will mark an epoch in the co-operative movement. We have acted on the principle that unless the workers of this country make up their minds intelligently—the curse of the worker is that he will not think consecutively—to claim their rights they will never have the things they want. If Congress has made that clear it has brought a wider outlook into life. I again thank you for the sympathy and assistance you have given me during the past three years.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) moved the following general vote of thanks :—

That this Congress expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks to the Deputy-Lord Mayor of Liverpool for his cordial welcome to the delegates, to the reverend gentlemen who conducted special services on Sunday, to the Artistes and Speakers who have assisted in making the evening meetings a success, to the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.P., for his address at the Educational Meeting on Tuesday evening, to the Reception Committee and the local societies for their successful efforts to provide for the comfort and entertainment of the delegates, and to the Press for their fair reports of the Congress proceedings.

I am sure, he said, you will pass this motion without dissent. We are indebted to everyone mentioned, and not least to those who have attended to us unseen but whole-heartedly. Regarding Mr. Fisher, I would like to give you a character of him which I received years ago. Not only did he hold the same views then as he does now, but he conducted a class of Ruskin College students, and without fee, and he willingly came down to speak to us despite the fact that this is a time of tremendous difficulty to him unravelling special details. We shall all go away from Liverpool with special memories.

A VOICE : Will you include the Mayor of Birkenhead ?

Mr. GOODENOUGH : Yes, we will put in the Mayor of Birkenhead.

Mr. E. R. S. MUNDY (Devon District Association), seconding the motion, said : Presumably the absence of reports in the newspapers has not prevented the co-operative movement keeping in touch with the civic bodies, and this is the right spirit to adopt. As regards the other part of the vote of thanks, the fact that so many ministers of various churches were willing to give sermons demonstrates the fact that the ethics of co-operation is not contrary to the spirit of true religion. As regards the President of the Board of Education, we shall go away with pleasant memories which shall never be removed from our minds so long as we live. Mr. Fisher showed himself as a man of culture, of natural gifts, and a stalwart advocate of democratic education, and it is to such men that we look for help in the future.

The resolution was carried enthusiastically.

Mr. F. J. NORRIS (Liverpool) : I thank you on behalf of the committee for the vote of thanks. When difficulty arose at Manchester it looked as if the Congress for the jubilee year was going to be abandoned. Liverpool at once stepped into the breach. Perhaps here the food difficulty was not so great as at Manchester. Our Food Control Committee has helped us. In addition to this we have had help from the civic authorities as well. The fact is that we owe a debt for what Manchester has done for Liverpool. We are not so old in the co-operative movement as Manchester. There was a time when Manchester came to the help of Liverpool when the old Toxteth Society was struggling for existence. Members have told me stories of the struggles of early days and of the great help which had come from Manchester. I felt that we could only repay the debt which we owed to Manchester by entertaining the Congress here. The Reception Committee have done their level best to make the visit a success. Assistance had been rendered by the managers and staffs of the societies. There was no division of opinion in asking the Congress to Liverpool. Everyone has done his or her best to help. If there has been any hitch at all we ask you to consider the short time at our disposal in making the arrangements, and that you will forgive any defects. I thank you on behalf of the Liverpool and Birkenhead societies for your vote of thanks.

The Congress was then brought to a termination by the delegates uniting in singing "Auld Lang Syne."



APPENDIX.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS CONNECTED WITH CONGRESS.

SATURDAY'S PUBLIC MEETING AND CONCERT.

Saturday evening's public meeting was held in the Central Hall, and was presided over by Mr. W. Lander (Co-operative Wholesale Society Director), the speakers being Mr. W. Maxwell (president of the Co-operative International Alliance) and Mrs. Blair (Liverpool).

Opening the meeting, Mr. LANDER said that at one time it looked as though there would not be any Congress. He was sorry that Manchester had failed, but glad Liverpool had come to the rescue in more ways than one. But co-operators were a strong body of men and women with a set purpose. They were out with a set purpose to bring about a bloodless revolution for the benefit of humanity. As they read the stories of the pioneers they might think that through co-operation they would realise the millennium, and never dream that men and men, nation and nation, would be at war with each other. But there was much yet to be done, and they had a big programme to carry out before they achieved their object. One thing there must be, the working man's child must be given his chance of education, and it was hoped that with the assistance of democracy the Education Bill before the country would be placed upon the Statute Book. As co-operators they were up against vested interests, and the war has hastened the decision of co-operators to enter Parliament. As a movement they had suffered in supplies, but they were

now determined to have their place in the sun. The present was no time for division in their ranks; the ranks must be closed, for they had a great goal before them, and out of the present chaos they hoped to build the new Jerusalem wherein there would reign peace and goodwill.

Mr. W. MAXWELL, who was introduced by Mr. Lander as an old friend and colleague, said he should be very remiss in his duty if he did not at the outset offer his congratulations to Liverpool upon the marvellous progress the society had made since 1899. His memory went back to the time when Mr. J. T. W. Mitchell despaired of ever making Liverpool into a co-operative city, but now they were in the front ranks of co-operative progress. Through their statesmanlike action of amalgamation they had secured strength and permanency to their institutions. My only justification, he continued, for appearing upon the platform to-night must be to show what poor stuff we had fifty years ago. (Cries of "No, No.") His colleagues had gone, but he was there to recall with grateful pride the unselfish and magnificent work they had done, not for any selfish ends, but for the benefit of their fellow-men. Their names were remembered in their hearts with gratitude. Referring to the early days of the movement, Mr. Maxwell said it was started more than 100 years ago, and some of the societies were doing business to-day. Those were not the good old days, at least not for the workers. They were the bad days, and his memory went back 70 years to the days of poverty and unemployment and no education. No, the best was yet to come, and the Union of which they were celebrating the 50th anniversary was helping forward these better days by organising propaganda and consolidating the units into one indivisible power. It was, therefore, up to them to show their appreciation for their inheritance. Since the movement was started they had found opposition, and even to-day, said Mr. Maxwell, we are thwarted, ignored, and contemptuously treated by the powers in high places. It was all a matter of time, but if they did not defend themselves then all the marshalled forces would break through. They could not hope for an easy walk over; obstacles must be overcome, and with zeal and determination they would succeed. Mr. Maxwell pleaded with the women to force the pace. He had always held that women were the backbone of the movement, and it was singular that at the first general election after the Franchise was granted to them the question to be put to them would be, "Will you vote for co-operation or competition?" His hope was that the women would all plump for co-operation. The future political call would be "For the People" or "For Privilege." Then would be found the true value of the fusion of forces. Then would the people learn that co-operation touched the welfare of the people, and all questions connected with land, education, trade and commerce, and international peace. Let us organise to win, and not enter half-heartedly into the political work before us. Speaking from long experience, concluded Mr. Maxwell, I count large meetings for nothing compared with perfect organisation. A new and greater life was before them, and it was up to them to seize the opportunities with enthusiasm and not to fritter the time

away in sectional differences. If this were done, then the makers of the movement to-day would be unworthy of the founders and the workers who had sacrificed so much for it. He urged them to make a very sincere effort to banish poverty and privilege and to bring in a reign of justice and peace, and bring back to the world the fulfilment of the prayer so often murmured on a Sunday, "Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven," something worth working, fighting, and dying for.

Mrs. BLAIR pleaded with the representatives of the management and educational committees to realise the importance of women to the movement, and to make more use of the 30,000 organised guildswomen. All sorts of organisations were running after guild members and asking their help, because they knew how well conducted organised co-operative women were on problems affecting their everyday life. Women were thinking and feeling in their hearts such a lot of things. Their boys were being taken away from them and fed, housed, and clothed, and the women were asking if this could be done in war time why not in peace time? Then women were wanting to know why there were two kinds of education—one for the upper and another for the working classes? They were saying that their sons and daughters should all have equal opportunities. They wanted knowledge on how to attack the problems of to-day, not lectures on home, food, and cooking, and now the vote was theirs they intended to use their influence at the ballot box.

Mr BEESTON (Liverpool) proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and artistes, which Mr. PERRY (Birkenhead) seconded.

Mr. LANDER replied on behalf of all, and congratulated the societies on Merseyside on their success.

CONGRESS P.S.A.

On Sunday afternoon a gathering in connection with the Congress took place in the Tivoli Theatre, New Brighton, at which Mr. S. F. PERRY (Birkenhead) officiated as chairman, and Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, M.P., delivered the address. There was a very large attendance, and the programme was an excellent one.

MONDAY EVENING'S PUBLIC MEETING.

Mr. T. KILLON (chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society) presided at the Monday evening's public meeting, held in the Central Hall, and accompanying him on the platform as speakers were Mrs. Lawton (Hanley) and Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P.

Free from official control and with a glorious cause to advocate, Mr. KILLON said he felt happy, and referring to the handbill which had been put into his hands, telling the people to "Beware the co-operative menace," he asked, why is this meeting arranged to take place on Thursday when the Congress delegates will have left Liverpool? For half a century private traders had been in control of the industries of this country, and with what result? Had they made any attempt to grapple with poverty, misery, degradation, and slums? It was now fashionable to be a co-operator, and to-day the traders were imitating co-operative methods by combining; but it was necessary to point out certain differences. Against co-operation it was asked, What do committee-men who are joiners and carpenters know about business? In reply, he would ask, Who are the men at the head of the multiple shops, and who are the shareholders? Did they know anything of the businesses from which they got their livings? No; they did what co-operators would have to do—engage the best brains and pay the best money to those who understood their work, while the directors guided the policy. Did the men and women who shopped at the multiple firms know where the profits went which they helped to create? Certainly not into the pockets of the consumers, but to the shareholders, and this was the difference between combination and co-operation. I want to speak quite "homely" about the conditions of present-day commerce, said Mr. Killon. The Co-operative Wholesale Society directors thought, and still think, that sugar bought by the Government should be sold to us without coming through any intermediaries. But, no. The Government refused to disturb the existing trading relations, with the result that the distribution of the food supplies of this country brought the people, some time back, almost to the verge of revolution. To-day the Co-operative Wholesale Society had to buy sugar through a broker on the 1913 basis of consumption, and in saying this, he continued, I am not saying one word against the man, but against the system. Prior to the war the Co-operative Wholesale Society was buying sugar in New York at 14s. 3d. per cwt., but the price after the war was 45s. to 46s. per cwt., the broker getting 10s. per cent on the increased values as represented by the increase in price. What would have been said of the working man if he had got 300 per cent on his wages? But sugar was only one item. The Government decided to allocate tea on what was known as "the datum period," and the allocation for the Co-operative Wholesale Society on this was 600 cwts. per week. What happened? Societies had additional members to cater for, while those already members became more loyal. Hence consumption increased, and they were told that tea would be released on the same basis as sugar; and it was only during the past fortnight that the Government caved in, and the Co-operative Wholesale Society was given 300,000 cwts. more than they had at the datum period. They had to contend it was impossible to feed their members, and that if something were not done to ease the situation the country would be roused. They did not ask any favour; only to be treated equally with anyone else. There must not be any more shuffling or trickery such as

had happened with tea. And if he had been at Leman Street when the Government sent warrants demanding to know the tea stocks, the officers would not have gone in except by force. Certain influences had been used and statements were circulated that the Co-operative Wholesale Society had stores of tea there, contravening the Defence of the Realm Act. What happened? When examined, the stocks were lower than before the war, and immediately this was known buying went on as quickly as ever it could, and the Press raised the cry that it was the Co-operative Wholesale Society which had raised the price of tea. This was a form of trickery to which the Co-operative Wholesale Society was not accustomed. However, co-operative principles had not been assailed and all that was needed was their intelligent application for the cause they had at heart to progress.

Mrs. LAWTON (Hanley) said that though most co-operators to-day had a valuable opinion of women, there were some who doubted women's future influence on the movement. She admitted that women's influence was unknown in public life and in the movement, but if they went wrong the men would be to blame. The vast numbers of women in the movement did not attend any meetings; they were not to be got at, and the weakest were being induced to go to the private traders, because they must have food. What had they done at Burslem? Their manager called a women's meeting at the time of the sugar rationing, and the women came with their grievances, but when the manager explained the unfairness of distribution every woman was satisfied and became more loyal to the society. But there were societies refusing to recognise the women. They were not admitted to quarterly meetings, but they must be got at somehow because of their ignorance. They were the shoppers and held the power. This "basket" power was a fact, and it was the women who made the conditions of the movement; she would not have the things she did not want. They had only to look at the shop windows of their various societies and note the number of private traders' goods as compared with those from the Co-operative Wholesale Society. If the women of the movement were consulted this would not obtain. They must get at the women and now, otherwise they would go outside. The Burslem Society had also held meetings for the purpose of telling the women why co-operators had entered the field of politics. A rumour was current in their town that the society was going down. There was a definite plan to undermine the society, and the management realised that if the rumour were neglected it would be too late to get matters put right, so the alarm was sounded for another meeting, with the result that any evil effects were scotched. If this step had not been taken developments might have been serious. Once more she appealed to the men to give the women every support and encouragement, and not to snigger when the women get up to speak at conferences. Once the confidence of the women was cultivated co-operation would be the answer to the social and industrial problems for which the people were asking to-day.

Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, M.P. (chairman of the Co-operative International

Alliance), in the course of his speech, said the people were so absorbed in the petty details of life to-day that they had not time to think of the larger ideals. But there were dangers of success, and to-day the war had placed co-operators in such a position that the movement was obliged to take up politics. And there was the greater danger of the movement becoming absorbed in politics to the detriment of the voluntary mutual help for which the movement was started. He hoped they would not forget the splendid work which needed doing in the sphere of housing. Then they would have to consider the international relationships of the movement and think how the bonds of friendship could be built up again. What about the co-operators of Germany and Austria? They would have to work with them again. (Cries of "No, no.") Continuing, Mr. Williams said he was not one who thought this could be brought about in a hurry, but he did not hide the fact and it had to be done. What they were asking for was that friendly relations should be established between the working classes of all the nations, for when brute force was beaten down it was through the co-operation of all nations that peace would be established. Co-operation had shown the way of mutual self-help at home, and they must lead the way to show what could be done between nations. Then let them

Pray that come it may,
That man to man the wide world o'er
Should brothers be and a' that.

THE EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

ADDRESS BY THE RIGHT HON. H. A. L. FISHER.

TRIBUTE TO CO-OPERATORS.

HIS EDUCATIONAL POLICY OUTLINED.

The Educational meeting, held on the Tuesday evening of Congress week, was a notable gathering. As the Reception Committee had the desire to associate the co-operators of Birkenhead with the Congress, the Tuesday evening meeting was held in the Town Hall, Birkenhead, and the audience which assembled filled the hall and overflowed into the corridors. Mr. W. R. Rae presided, and there was a representative co-operative platform. Besides the co-operators, there were on the platform Alderman Byrne (Mayor of Birkenhead), who was accompanied by the Mayoress; the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.P. (the President of the Board of Trade); Mr. A. Bigland, M.P. for Birkenhead; Mr. Gresham Stewart, M.P. for the Wirrall Division; Alderman R. J. Russell, J.P. (chairman of the Birkenhead Education Committee); Councillor Annie Laird (Birkenhead); Rev. Father Hughes (Liverpool), &c.

Mr. Fisher and the municipal representatives were warmly applauded on taking their places. Besides having the pleasure of hearing the Minister of Education personally describing what he hoped to gain for the nation by means of the Education Bill he was then piloting through Parliament, the audience had an excellent concert programme provided for them by gifted artistes, including :—Contralto, Miss Hilda Cragg James; elocutionist, Madame Gladys Williams; baritone, Mr. Chas. Critchley; flautist, Mr. Stanley Redfern; Birkenhead Glee and Madrigal Society; conductor, Mr. Walter Baker; accompanist, Miss Jennie Atwill. The various contributions were highly appreciated, and a number of "encores" had to be responded to.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Alderman Byrne, the Mayor of Birkenhead, in a few words, will welcome the delegates who come from very distant places.

The MAYOR: It gives me great pleasure to welcome the delegates to Birkenhead. If you had a little time to stay you would like our port. We have suburbs second to none in England. If you only want to come to a health resort, come to Birkenhead. It is the first opportunity I have had of meeting Mr. Rae, but the Mayoress oftentimes has met him in Sunderland, having known him there. She, therefore, knows him better than I do. She always respects him, and speaks very highly of him.

The CHAIRMAN: Since I have been interested in education I have been to many meetings of this kind, but I do not think I ever before felt so utterly unfit to preside as I do to-night. It is not because of the kind words the Mayor has said in regard to a very dear old friend of ours, or of the really distinguished company we have on the platform; it is because some of the long hopes of past years of schoolmastering seem likely to be realised. For nearly forty years—within a few months now—I have been caring for the youth at the schools in the North of England. I have seen them drift between the ages of 14 and 16; I have seen them beaten in the race. In the old days, when we had the reading of books, I used to long for the days when education would be through all the senses as well as through the one. And after long years, and here now—I was going to say in my old age—we have a man courageous enough, far-seeing enough, and bold enough, and willing withal, to fight the battle of the children of the workers, so that they may have an opportunity that they have not hitherto had. You can imagine how proud I am to introduce to a co-operative audience the best Minister for Education.

The Right Hon. H. A. L. FISHER, M.P., who was loudly cheered on rising to address the meeting, said:

Mr. Rae, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I presume I see before me "The Martyrs of the Arena," whose suffering has been so melodiously pictured by the Birkenhead Glee and Madrigal Society. But I shall assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that although your martyrdom will be painful it will be brief. I do not propose to inflict myself upon you for more than a very brief space of time, and I shall watch your inevitable contortions with a friendly and clement eye. When I received the invitation to come down to Birkenhead to address the co-operators, I did not hesitate for a moment.

I have always had a very great interest in the co-operative movement, and so, too, has my wife, who is an emancipated woman, over whose actions I have no control, and who has been a co-operator ever since we were married. I am specially interested in the co-operative movement because the co-operative movement has all through been a friend of popular education. Whatever has been the view about education in other quarters of society, the co-operators have never been in doubt that education is the great primary, sacred cause of democracy. You realise, what so many other people have failed to realise, that while it may be true that when you give mere material goods to one person there is less to be bestowed in that possession than is already given by the benefits of education of the things of the spirit and the mind; that, on the contrary, the more education one gets the more he reaches the light. The more educated you make A, the more education there is for B, because A's education is not confined to him or her; the force radiates out and affects everybody with whom he or she may come into contact. As I am going to speak about education this evening, I may be pardoned if I tell you what I mean by education. I believe it is said that no Oxford man addresses a meeting without bringing in Aristotle. Aristotle was once asked what was the difference between an educated man and an uneducated man, and he answered: "The difference between a living man and a corpse." That goes to the bottom of it. An educated man—when I say man I also mean woman, I shall say man for short—is not a person who has read more books than other people; he is not a person who remembers more dates than any other person; he is not a person who can do more sums than any other person, but he is a man who feels that life is worth living, getting pleasure of the mind and spirit more valuable than words can measure—a man, when he does read a book, knows how to read it, knows how to turn it to his own uses, and knows how to make it helpful to him. He is a man who lives close to certain ideas—great, simple ideas—to guide his life by some thread of principle. That is what I believe to be an educated man. We who are democrats and believe in democracy know perfectly well that no democracy can be wholesome, and no democracy can be happy unless the goods of education are fully and bounteously spread amongst them. I have read in the prospectus of your powerful Union that you have a project—I do not know how far the project has gone—for erecting a college in memory of those who have fallen in the war. Let me say that I regard that as a very proper and noble form of memorial. I had the same idea myself. I told the House of Commons, when I was introducing my Education Estimate, that I hoped that a great scheme of educational reform would be the principal national memorial to Englishmen who have fallen in the war. After all, what can be a more effective or more impressive memorial than a memorial that is calculated to repair the waste of the war by ennobling and enriching the lives of the future generations of the country. In the measure now being considered by Parliament we have an instalment—a fair and substantial instalment; but I only regard it as an instalment—of a series of educational

reforms which will make this country an entirely different country for the children and young people of the working class to live in. I am speaking to you here in all earnestness, because I see before me men and women who, by the position which you hold in the working classes, are fitted to be the most effective and powerful missionaries of the cause. But do not let us suppose that that cause is already won! It is quite true that the Education Bill has got into Committee, but it has not yet passed through that stage, and it will have other difficulties to confront; and, meanwhile, we have to realise that education reforms have their duty, and that the whole force of custom—unanalysed custom—is being steadily enlisted against them. Consequently, ladies and gentlemen, I want your help. Now, Mr. Chairman, the ideas of this measure are very simple; so simple that I am almost ashamed of having to state them. The first idea is that youth is the period of life which is proper to education. This proposition is the tritest of platitudes. Why, there is not a parent in this country who has means and a balance at the bank and a grain of sense in his composition who does not take very good care that his children receive a very good education during or through the period of adolescence. No wealthy man stops the education of his children at the age of fourteen or twelve years. He sees that they get some guidance, some control, some chance for educational development during those years when the character and the mind are very plastic and amenable to influence. But when you take the great mass of the population of this country, we find that it is considered quite sufficient if the education of the great masses of children is wound up, once and for all, at twelve or thirteen or fourteen years of age. At the best there is nothing further except that small minority of enterprising spirits who find some compensation in the evening schools. Now, is that a reasonable arrangement? Is it good business? To spend £30,000,000 a year on the elementary education of little children between the ages of five and twelve or thirteen years, and then stop dead just at the time when education begins to do good; just at a time when little children are beginning to feel there is some interest in the books they read and that they have some relation to life—at a time when they are beginning to feel that education is not all mechanical and meaningless drudgery. I say it is not good business. I say, if the country wants a rational organisation of education it must provide some machinery that will enable education to be continued for the period of adolescence. That is what we are attempting to do. In the Bill we are attempting to provide a means by which the children of working parents may be enabled to get a little education a few hours a week all through the period of adolescence, and which will not interfere much with their work—I hope it will not interfere with their wages. If you consider society as a whole, and the effect of the Education Bill on the total wealth of the country, the product will be enormously increased by the diffusion of the general intelligence among the people. I have said before, and now, again, that no nation has ever lost economically by any improvement in the general education of its population. Now another idea of the Bill—it has

already been alluded to by your chairman. We do not take a narrow view of education in the Bill. We take a very broad view. We do not regard education as merely a matter of book-learning. Everybody knows that if you take a family of children, one will be good at books, another with his hands, another will have some musical taste, and a fourth will have a taste for art generally. The tastes will differ, the aptitudes will differ, and the children will have to be developed on different lines. That is what we want to develop in the Bill. We do not want to turn out a whole race of book-worms. The other day, when the Bill was before Committee, there was a good deal of discussion as to the relative value of a technical and a general education. You can dose a child too hard. You can have a very good general education; and there is no very clear line between the two. I am a great believer in making boys and girls feel that their education will help them in life. That is the test of a really skilful educationist and school-master—he makes them feel it is of use, not merely a material use. There is a great saying in Augustine's Confessions applicable to the whole course of education. It is: "Through life one person is fired by nothing but the love that the teacher has for his subject." Whether it be a subject of mental or artistic instruction, that love fires the class whom he teaches. Now, ladies and gentlemen, our system of education in this country is a system which is controlled by popular bodies, and it is financed partly by the State and partly by the ratepayers; and when I hear people abusing our national schools and saying that our children are not taught the right things, or are not taught in the right way, or are not taught by the right people, I only say: "Who is to blame?" The ratepayers have it in their power to make the schools as good as they like. When the municipal and county council elections come on you hear people talk about drains and water. How often do you hear, what is much more important, any reference to the education of the children. What we want to see brought forward at an election of the town council or county council is the education of the children, and the prospects of the future race which is to control this Empire. It is a big interest, and it is an interest which is most frequently neglected; it is an interest to which the whole will of the country ought to be insistently and energetically directed. When I ask you to be missionaries of education, what I want you to do as delegates of the Co-operative Congress is: when you get home amongst your people you have to say to them over and over again that education is a great interest at elections of town councils and county councils, and that nobody should be returned to these bodies who is not prepared to be interested in the education of the democracy of the people. Now, there are two parties to education—the teacher and the taught. I will ask you to consider the position of the teacher. I speak feelingly on this point, because my whole life has been spent in teaching; I am one of the profession, and I am very proud to be. It is a very great profession. Now, as you know, ladies and gentlemen, the true value of the services which men and women tender to education is never recognised by money remunera-

tion. You may say that, generally, the inverse rule holds good. The teaching profession is, has been, and will always, to some extent, be an ill-remunerated profession. Teachers do not go into the profession to make money. They go into the profession with something like the missionary motive: because they are fond of children and would like to teach children and follow the calling of the teacher for its own sake. That is the feeling which, I am sure, actuates the great body of men and women teachers all over the country. At the same time, you cannot have a profession living upon missionary motive alone. You must give the profession its bread and butter. You must make it reasonably attractive to reasonably prudent people. I am clear about this: If we want to create a great raising of the education given to the children of the working people of this country, we must begin by improving the status and position of the teaching profession. (A voice: "In all its branches.") Yes; in all its branches—not least in the Universities: The teachers in the Universities are often disgracefully paid. And, ladies and gentlemen, a modest beginning has been made in this direction. I have been the humble instrument of procuring a small addition to the scanty salaries of our teaching profession. I hope to be able to do more for them in future. But I feel that, after all, this material side is not the only side to consider. Teaching is a very hard life; a life in which men and women are rather apt, if they do their duty, to get worn out rather soon; and I feel that if you are going to get the best out of the great teaching profession of this country, you must take care that your teachers have their intellects freshened up, from time to time, by courses of instruction, either at summer classes or elsewhere. You must see that the interest is kept alive in things which really matter to human beings. I do not know whether or not it is generally realised how many little children in our elementary schools are quite incapable of deriving any profit from instruction by reason of the fact either that their constitutions have been ruined before the age of five years or that they come to school so tired by industrial work that they can do very little but sleep when they get there. If you read reports of school medical service you will see Sir George Newman's conclusion that there are no fewer than one million children in our elementary schools that we do not get any good out of, because of their physical condition. Now, we have got to change all that, and I think the Education Bill, when it has been in working a certain number of years, will make an enormous change in the physical condition of our children. We are proposing to establish nursery schools for little children whose mothers care to send them there; and in these schools not only will they have enough food, sleep, and play, but they will have any medical attendance that they might require, and all those little ailments, the accumulation of which tells with such tremendous force upon the tiny body of the child, will be checked at the beginning. And then that other evil, the evil of excessive employment before school hours, is going to be dealt with in that Bill. We propose to prohibit it altogether. And so we hope schoolmasters and schoolmistresses of the future will have

before them classes of young children, fresh, buoyant, and ready to get all the good to be derived from intelligence. Ladies and gentlemen, your martyrdom has come to an end. There is an old Greek proverb, "Nothing too much." I have now spoken three-quarters of an hour upon a subject which, I fear, though it is very important and serious, does not ever profess to be amusing. I feel that, if I am to speak longer, it will be too much. So, ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude by asking you to bear in mind that the Education Bill is not through Parliament, and while it remains uncertain, every good citizen, be he male or female—I knew the fair sex would appreciate the compliment—can help the passage of the Bill by putting a little pressure on his member of Parliament. I have seen something of members of Parliament. There is none made of adamant, or iron, or stone, or marble; on the contrary, they are more of very impressionable wax: and if you stamp the word "Education" on them hardly—as hard as you can—you will find that the result will gratify your hopes and realise your expectations. Ladies and gentlemen, I count upon your support.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not customary to pass formal votes of thanks at these gatherings. I will ask Mr. Fisher to accept this volume from the Education Committee. It is written by one of our lady members, printed and bound by ourselves, and prized by ourselves. I hope that Mr. Fisher will derive pleasure from its perusal, and will accept it as a souvenir of his visit this evening.

Mr. Rae then handed to Mr. Fisher a specially bound volume of Miss Catherine Webb's "Industrial Co-operation."

The CHAIRMAN: I hope that you will be prepared to pledge yourselves to do just what Mr. Fisher wants. Those who are agreed say "Aye." (A loud volume of "Ayes" filled the hall.) Go home, keep your pledges, and Mr. Fisher will see your gratitude reflected on the floor of the House of Commons.



Resolutions of the Central Board.



AT ITS MEETING BEFORE CONGRESS, 12TH AND 13TH APRIL, 1918.

1. Permanent Secretary for Midland Section.

That a permanent secretary for the Midland Section be appointed. The United Board to arrange details and make the appointment.

2. Labour Adviser.

That the question as to the date of the Labour Adviser commencing duties stand adjourned until the meeting of the Central Board before Congress.

3. Resolutions for Congress.

Resolutions on the following subjects, sent in by societies, were accepted for inclusion in the Report to Congress :—

- (a) Permanent Executive of the Co-operative Union.
- (b) Co-operative Parliamentary Committee.
- (c) Co-operative Parliamentary Representation Committee.
- (d) Committee of Inquiry *re* Income Tax.
- (e) Purchasing Power, Education, and Religious Teaching.
- (f) Survey Committee's Report.

4. Military Service Bill.

That this meeting of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union having considered the provisions of the Military Service Bill, is of opinion that no decision should be taken by the Government that will interfere with the industries engaged in the production and distribution of food, these industries having already suffered depletion of workers to the utmost limit they can bear without serious danger of imperilling the supply of the essential necessities of life to the people.

5. Excess Profits.

The following resolution was adopted for inclusion in the Report to Congress :—

That this Congress reaffirms its previous resolution as to the injustice of the application of the Excess Profits Duty to the ordinary operations of co-operative societies. It expresses its profound dissatisfaction with the present position of this question and the attitude of His Majesty's Government

towards it, and urges upon the Parliamentary Committee the necessity of continuing their efforts to obtain relief for the movement from the unfair burden of this duty.

6. Food Control Committees.

That we demand larger representation on the local Food Control Committees than we have previously had, and that we press for adequate representation on advisory committees.

7. The Datum Period.

That the following words be added to the resolution on this subject, contained in the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee:—"And, further, it demands that the control or rationing of any article of food shall be immediately accompanied by the registration of customers with retailers and the registration of wholesalers, in order that the available supplies may be more equitably distributed."

AT ITS MEETING BEFORE CONGRESS, SATURDAY, 18TH MAY, 1918.

1. Grants to Guilds.

That grants be made to the Women's Guild as follows:—(a) Scottish, £175; (b) Irish, £50; (c) English, that a conference be arranged between the United Board and the Women's Co-operative Guild.

2. Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and Survey Committee.

That the following resolution be submitted to Congress if after a conversation with the directors of the Scottish Wholesale Society present at Congress, they cannot undertake to comply with the request of the Survey Committee:—

That this Congress, having regard to the importance of the questions which the Survey Committee is investigating, regrets that it has not been possible for the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society to meet representatives of the Survey Committee, or to submit answers to their questions, and expresses its opinion that it is desirable that the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society should receive representatives of the Survey Committee or submit replies to their questions at as early a date as possible, in order that the report of the Survey Committee may be completed and be presented to the movement at an early date.

AT SPECIAL MEETING DURING CONGRESS, 20TH MAY, 1918.

1. Scottish Election.

That, seeing it is in accordance with legal opinion, and meets with the approval of the Scottish members, we recommend Congress to declare the

eight members elected, and that with regard to the two remaining positions, the thirty-four societies which have presumably wrongly cast their votes, be written asking them to confirm, or otherwise, the persons for whom they voted, and that this be voted upon by Scottish delegates only.

AT ITS MEETING DURING CONGRESS, 21ST MAY, 1918.

1. Deputation from the Managers' and Secretaries' Associations.

That we strongly recommend the Joint Parliamentary Committee to arrange for representatives of the Managers' and Secretaries' Associations to be present on any deputation to Government Departments to consider matters affecting the members of these organisations.

2. Office Committee.

That the sectional boards be asked to nominate their representatives on the Office Committee, the names to be submitted to the United Board at its first meeting for adoption.

3. Education Committee.

That the sectional boards and other organisations concerned be empowered to appoint representatives to act on this committee.

4. Joint Propaganda Committee.

That the Midland and North-Western Sectional Boards be requested to appoint their usual number of representatives on this committee.

5. Advisory Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators.

That Messrs. M. H. Clear, G. Goodenough, W. Millerchip, W. H. Watkins, D. Williams, and G. Wilson be our representatives on this committee.

6. Trades Union Congress.

That the Board of the section in which the Congress is to be held appoint a representative to attend the Trades Union Congress.

7. National Union of Teachers' Conference.

That the appointment of a delegate to attend the above conference be referred to the Board of the section in which the conference will be held.

8. National Co-operative Representation Committee.

That the appointment of representatives on this committee be remitted to the sectional boards, with power to act.

9. Standing Orders.

That the Standing Orders for Central Board meetings, included in the report of the Survey Committee, be adopted, and that copies be printed for circulation amongst the members of the Central Board.

10. Chairman of Central Board.

That the appointment of a chairman of the Central Board be referred to the United Board.

11. Meeting of Central Board.

That the United Board be requested to call a meeting of the Central Board within three months from this date.



Resolutions passed at the Liverpool Congress,

20th, 21st, and 22nd MAY, 1918.



1. Excess Profits Duty.

That this Congress reaffirms its previous resolutions as to the injustice of the application of the Excess Profits Duty to the ordinary operations of co-operative societies. It expresses its profound dissatisfaction with the present position of this question and the attitude of the Government towards it, and strongly supports the Parliamentary Committee in the continuance of its efforts to obtain relief for the movement from the unfair burden of this duty.

2. The Datum Period.

That this Congress strongly protests against the continuance of the "datum period" in the schemes of control of foodstuffs adopted by the Ministry of Food; it declares that such a basis of distribution in the present crisis is contrary to the interests of consumers, and calls for its immediate abolition. Further, it demands that the control or rationing of any article of food shall be immediately followed by the registration of customers with retailers and the registration of wholesalers, in order that available supplies may be equitably distributed.

3. The Exclusion of Co-operative Organisations.

That this Congress enters its emphatic protest against the practice of the Ministry of Food in scheduling certain channels of private trading enterprise as the only means of supply to the exclusion of co-operative organisations, thus compelling our societies to place their orders with private profiteers to the financial detriment of their own federations, and in direct conflict with their established principles as organisations of consumers.

4. A League of Nations.

That this Congress declares its firm adherence to the principle of "A League of Nations" as a guarantee of the world's peace, and hereby adds to its programme of political policy the promotion of such an alliance of all the peoples.

5. National Co-operative Representation Committee.

A NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND ITS OBJECTS.

That there be constituted a National Co-operative Representation Committee, whose objects shall be to secure direct co-operative representation in Parliament and on local and other administrative bodies in strict accordance with the decision of the Swansea Congress, and such amendments of this decision as may be made at subsequent Congresses; and to undertake, in furtherance of these objects, such propaganda or other work, either alone or in co-operation with other committees or organisations, as may be deemed desirable.

CONSTITUTION.

The National Co-operative Representation Committee shall be a committee of the Co-operative Union, responsible to the Central Board of the Union, and through it to Congress.

The committee shall consist of—

Nine members of the Central Board, appointed by the Central Board on a sectional basis (two members from the North-Western Section and one member from each other section).

Nine members representing and elected by societies contributing to the Co-operative Political Fund. These members shall be elected on a sectional basis (two members from the North-Western Section and one member from each other section), and be elected by the contributing societies in the section they represent.

(A person who is elected a member of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union shall not be eligible to be elected as a representative of the societies contributing to this scheme.)

One member representing and appointed by the Central Education Committee or such other committee as may be the committee of the Central Board entrusted with the educational work of the Union.

Two members representing and appointed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

One member representing and appointed by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

One member representing and appointed by the Co-operative Productive Federation.

Two members representing and appointed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Congress.

One member representing and appointed by the Women's Co-operative Guild (England and Wales).

One member representing and appointed by the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild.

One member representing and appointed by the National Co-operative Men's Guild.

The committee shall be elected annually, immediately after Congress. The Central Board shall appoint its representatives at its first meeting following the declaration of the constitution of the Central Board; and the other organisations shall appoint their representatives by the same date; and the first meeting of the committee shall be held within one month following the opening day of Congress and not less often than quarterly thereafter.

It shall be competent for the committee to appoint an executive committee; and if, and when, a permanent executive committee is appointed for the Co-operative Union the constitution of the National Representation Committee shall be so amended that the Executive of the Co-operative Union shall be the executive committee of the National Co-operative Representation Committee.

FUNCTIONS.

The functions of the National Co-operative Representation Committee, subject to the instructions and veto of the Central Board and Congress, shall be—

(1) To prepare and issue a statement of policy and a national programme on matters political in harmony with the decisions of the annual Co-operative Congress, to prepare for the approval of Congress such amendments of the statement of policy and programme as may be deemed desirable; and to work in co-operation with the local councils, hereinafter provided for, in carrying out the policy and programme as approved by Congress.

(2) To advise and help co-operative societies and co-operative political councils in their political work.

(3) To initiate and undertake, or co-operate with other committees of the Co-operative Union in initiating or undertaking, schemes of propaganda and education for the furtherance of the objects for the attainment of which the committee is established.

(4) To administer the Co-operative Political Fund on lines hereinafter provided under the heading "Finance."

(5) To prepare a list of suitable candidates for Parliamentary elections and to receive nominations from local councils for addition to the list.

(6) To approve or disapprove the Parliamentary candidatures proposed by the local councils, and to make such grants in support of the approved candidatures as may be deemed desirable.

(7) To prepare, for issue through the Publications Department of the Co-operative Union, such literature as may be deemed necessary for the success of the work of the committee.

(8) To secure the adhesion of such societies as have not yet given their support to the scheme for securing direct co-operative representation.

(9) To receive reports from local councils of the work done by the councils, and take such action thereon as may be deemed necessary.

(10) To submit, with its minutes, a report of its work to each quarterly meeting of the Central Board.

(11) To submit each year to the Central Board for inclusion in the report of the Central Board to Congress a report of the work done by the committee during the Congress year.

(12) To undertake such other work as may be remitted to it by the Central Board or Congress.

FINANCE.

There shall be created a special Co-operative Representation Fund, on the following basis :—

(1) Retail societies participating in the scheme for securing political representation shall contribute at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per member per year.

(2) Wholesale societies, productive societies, and other special societies shall annually contribute such amounts as may be agreed upon by them and the National Co-operative Representation Committee.

(3) The Co-operative Union, in addition to meeting the expenses outlined below, shall contribute such amounts as may be approved by the Central Board.

(4) Special donations to the fund may be received from individuals and others in sympathy with the objects of the committee.

(From items 1 and 2 an annual income of £8,000 to £10,000 may be expected.)

The Central Board shall be responsible to Congress for the proper use of this fund. The expenditure of the income shall be on the following lines :—

(1) Payment of expenses incurred in connection with propaganda work organised and undertaken by the Central Committee.

(2) Payment of central expenses for literature.

(3) Grants to local political councils towards the expenses of Parliamentary candidatures endorsed by the National Representation Committee.

(4) Payment of expenses of members of the National Representation Committee.

(5) Payment of such other expenses as are incurred with the approval of the committee.

The National Co-operative Representation Committee, at the commencement of each Congress year, shall submit to the Central Board for approval an estimate, grouped under suitable headings, of its prospective expenditure for the current year, and these estimates shall include any grants it proposes to make and the amounts it proposes to earmark for assisting Parliamentary candidatures at bye-elections and general elections.

A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNION.

The Co-operative Union shall organise a special department, which shall work under the National Co-operative Representation Committee of the Central Board. There shall be a person appointed on the Union staff to act as secretary and head of this department, and the clerical staff and organisers necessary to secure the success of the department shall also be appointed. The appointments shall be made by the Executive of the Co-operative Union,

in consultation with the National Co-operative Representation Committee. The expenses of the department, covering rent, salaries, administrative expenses not otherwise provided for, and literature not properly chargeable to the funds of the National Representation Committee, or other committees or bodies, shall be borne by the Co-operative Union. These expenses, which are for the present estimated at £3,000 per annum, shall be borne by the Co-operative Union, and shall be considered the contribution of the Co-operative Union to the Co-operative Representation Fund; but the Central Board may contribute such other additional sums as it may deem necessary or desirable.

LOCAL COUNCILS.

As soon as it is constituted, the National Co-operative Representation Committee shall consider the constitution and work of local councils, and draft such rules and regulations or amendments to the present scheme of organisation for local councils as seem to it desirable.

6. Honorary Members.

That the following gentlemen be appointed as honorary members of the Central Board for the ensuing Congress year :—

Irish : Mr. R. Fleming.

Midland : Messrs. E. L. Griffiths, D. McInnes, S. Redfern, W. W. Smith, and G. Woodhouse.

Northern : Messrs. H. R. Bailey, W. Crooks, and J. Murdoch.

North-Western : Messrs. C. J. Beckett and H. Stuttard.

Scottish : Messrs. D. H. Gerrard, J. Lochhead, and A. Meldrum.

Southern : Messrs. A. H. D. Acland, A. W. Golightly, E. O. Greening, and H. J. May.

South-Western : Messrs. A. Bullock and H. Westbury.

Western : Mr. E. R. Wood.

7. Co-operative Parliamentary Committee.

That the Parliamentary interests of the co-operative movement, as regards administration and legislation, should be delegated to a committee responsible to the Co-operative Union, and that the two Wholesale Societies and any other co-operative organisation, of which the Congress shall approve, and which is concerned with the work of the Parliamentary Committee, shall appoint special representatives on the committee, and that the Central Board present a report within six months for circulation to the sections and district associations in sufficient time for consideration previous to next year's Congress, as to the number and method of election of the committee, and the organisations which should be represented thereon.

8. Report of Survey Committee.

Seeing that no adequate consideration has been given by the movement to the proposals of the Survey Committee, Congress directs that the report

be referred back for discussion by societies, and that steps be taken to secure the immediate issue of the report, in convenient form, for full discussion by the movement before next Congress.

9. Inquiry re Income Tax.

That, in view of the fact that the majority of co-operators are, through the heavy taxes paid by co-operative societies under Schedules A and B, bearing taxation for which they are not liable, and in view of the agitation to secure the imposition of special taxation upon co-operative trade and trading surpluses, and the proposal of the Government to undertake an inquiry after the war in regard to Income Tax, this Congress instructs the Central Board to establish a Committee of Inquiry into the question of taxation and assessment of co-operative societies, this committee to consist of members of their own Board, officials, and other persons and organisations, who may be considered likely to promote the success of the inquiry, and that the Committee of Inquiry thus established be empowered to consult experts and undertake any action that may be considered germane to the inquiry.

10. Agricultural Organisation.

In view of the fact that the agriculturists are organising themselves and forming co-operative societies, and that such societies would cause overlapping and unnecessary officialism, this Congress calls upon the Co-operative Union to take prompt action to bring about the utilisation of the present machinery for dealing with their produce.

11. National Care of Maternity.

That this Congress, believing the national care of maternity to be amongst the measures of reconstruction most essential to the wellbeing of the nation, hereby adds this subject to its programme of policy.

12. Lanchester Food Control.

That this Congress, representing the co-operative movement, draws the attention of the Ministry of Food to the action of the Lanchester (Durham) Food Control Committee in proceeding by summons against the West Stanley Co-operative Society, and affirms that the decision arrived at by the bench of magistrates at Lanchester on 2nd May, 1918, constitutes an injustice to that society in particular, and the movement in general, and demands that the decision be quashed. It further orders that a copy of the report of this case, and other cases of unjust treatment, be sent to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Food, and requests the Parliamentary Committee to deal with the matter at the earliest possible moment.

13. Transfer of Society.

That the Llanidloes Co-operative Society be transferred from the Western to the Midland Section.

14. Amendment of Rules of the Union.

That the amendment of Rule 41, as outlined on page 324, be adopted.

15. Auditor.

That Mr. T. Wood (Manchester) be appointed auditor of the accounts of the Union for the ensuing year.

16. Place of Next Meeting.

That the Congress of 1919 be held at Carlisle in Whit-week.



ERRATA.

Owing to revised figures of Share Capital for the North-Western Section having been supplied, the following corrections are needed in the review of the Annual Statistics which follows.

Page 677—Increase of Share Capital should be “ over £1,800,000 ” not “ over £2,000,000.”

Page 678—Total Share Capital, North-Western Section for 1917, should be.. £20,474,305 not £21,284,305

Page 678—Average Share Capital per Member, North-Western Section for 1917, should be £14·38 „ £14·95

Page 678—Total Share Capital, United Kingdom for 1917, should be £48,574,049 „ £49,384,049

Page 678—Average Share Capital per Member, United Kingdom for 1917, should be..... £12·82 „ £13·04

Page 679—Per Cent of Reserve Funds to Share Capital, North-Western Section for 1917, should be..... 5·81 not 5·58

Page 679—Per Cent of Reserve Funds to Share and Loan Capital, North-Western Section for 1917, should be 5·31 „ 5·12

Page 679—Per Cent of Reserve Funds to Share Capital, United Kingdom for 1917, should be 7·40 „ 7·28

Page 679—Per Cent of Reserve Funds to Share and Loan Capital, United Kingdom for 1917, should be 6·54 „ 6·45

Page 681—“ This profit, after paying share interest, represented 28·14 per cent of share capital ” should be 28·61 per cent of share capital.

Page 681—Profits per cent of Share Capital for North-Western Section for 1917 should be..... 25·35 not 24·38

Page 681—Profits per cent of Share Capital for United Kingdom for 1917 should be 28·61 „ 28·14

Page 690—Share Capital of Retail Distributive Societies in North-Western Section in 1917 should be..... £20,474,305 not £21,284,305
And the increase should be £214,516 „ £1,024,516

Page 697 Share Capital of Retail Distributive Societies in 1917 should be .. £48,574,049 „ £49,384,049
And the increase should be £1,420,846 „ £2,230,846

REVIEW OF THE Annual Co-operative Statistics FOR THE YEAR 1917.

INTRODUCTORY.

In order that the statistics given in the following pages may be correctly understood a few words by way of explanation of their value and qualifications may be useful. Following the practice set last year, separate figures for the various types of societies in each section are given in each sectional summary in the body of the statistics, whilst comparisons with the figures for last year are given for each section in this introduction.

Membership.—In reading the statistics it is well to notice the various types of society in the movement, and in estimating the progress of the movement to follow each type separately rather than the whole collectively. Thus the membership of the retail distributive societies forms the best basis in estimating the growth of membership. The *total* membership of the movement includes the members of the productive societies and of the wholesale societies; and the membership of these societies includes other societies and individual members who are already counted in the membership of retail distributive societies. Comparisons between different societies and districts should be made cautiously, as some societies allow only one in a household to be a member of the society, whilst other societies allow open membership. This factor also affects the average capital per member and average sales per member.

Capital.—The capital figures of the movement require careful discrimination. The capital of the wholesale societies is principally provided by the retail distributive societies; and much of that of the productive societies is similarly provided, so that when the capital of all types of societies is added together, as in the grand summary and sectional summaries, some of the capital is counted more than once. The loan capital credited to retail distributive societies includes loans deposited by members, penny-bank deposits (over £2,600,000), bank overdrafts, and sundry items, such as sales-club deposits, and employees' surety deposits. From the point of view of the society all these are capital employed in working the business; but only a part of it—probably about £2,000,000—represents members' claims for loan capital. An analysis of the figures of aggregate loan capital at the end of 1916 is given in an appendix to the Report of the Survey Committee included in the earlier part of this Congress Report.

Trade.—The total trade of the movement includes both wholesale and retail trade. The best test of our command over the consumers' demand is, therefore, the sales of the retail distributive societies; whilst the sales of the wholesale societies and productive societies give us the data showing how far societies are supplying themselves from these co-operative sources. It should be remembered, however, in this connection that the sales of the wholesale societies and productive societies are given at wholesale prices, and those of the retail societies are given at retail prices. Also, it should be noted that a small proportion of the sales of the wholesale and productive societies consists of sales to purchasers other than retail societies, whilst the sales of the productive societies to the wholesale societies are counted twice over, once when the productive societies sell goods to the wholesale societies, and again when the wholesales re-sell these goods.

Production.—The figures given in the summaries show the value of some of the productions emanating from co-operative factories; but the productions of retail societies are not shown. The retail societies produce nearly as much as all other productive agencies put together (*vide* the Report of the Survey Committee as presented to the Lancaster Congress). In estimating the value of productions, further caution must be exercised. The output from the tea estates and cocoa factory jointly owned by the two wholesales is not included in the value of the wholesales' productions though included in their distributive trade. The flour milled by the wholesale societies counts twice over when used by the bakeries of any productive or distributive society. Transfers from one wholesale factory to another factory also count twice in the returns.

The number of workers engaged in production is one of the best tests of the development of production; but this is not entirely satisfactory either, for statistics show that the output per worker has been increasing during recent years; whilst values are not satisfactory owing to changes in prices.

Profits or Surplus.—These are the figures of profit or surplus before the share interest has been deducted. Interest on loan capital has been deducted, so that profits would appear greater if societies had less loan capital and a corresponding increase in share capital.

Owing for Goods.—The figures given under this heading include not only the ordinary members' debts, but amounts owing to productive departments on contracts and amounts owing for goods supplied on the hire-purchase system. It is probably the case that members' debts are reduced at the end of each trading period by societies requiring members to clear their accounts before the books are closed; and the amount is probably higher at other times during the quarter or half year.

THE FIGURES FOR 1917.

The statistics issued in the following pages show that the movement during the year 1917 again made considerable progress. This progress is most

emphasised in the matter of membership, which again shows a record increase for the year. Capital and trade both show considerable increases. For the increase in the amount of capital—an increase which is less than the increase last year—a partial explanation lies in the fact that a large number of societies have during the past year, or the preceding year, amended their rules by removing restrictions of various kinds which either restricted or prevented members from accumulating the full amount of capital permitted by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. Against this factor, must be considered the reduction of dividends, which has been fairly general throughout the movement, and which has doubtless had some influence upon the accumulation of capital, though the reduction in the rate per £ has been to some extent made up by the increased sales per member due to higher prices. It is noteworthy that the average capital per member shows a slight decline—the first decrease for many years. It is probably due to falling dividends and the counter attraction of other forms of investment. Retail trade shows a record increase of over £20,000,000, partly due to increases in retail prices. Stocks again show an increase in value due to higher prices. The reserve funds for the movement as a whole show an increase of about 16 per cent on the amount of these funds for last year. Net profits for all the movement as a whole show a decrease of about £1,000,000; and wholesale and retail trade together show an increase of about £28,000,000.

The total number of workers in the movement at the end of 1917 is given as 162,503, as compared with 158,715 at the end of 1916, an increase of 3,788. The number engaged in production and distribution respectively, and the comparison with previous years, are given in the following table :—

Year.	Total Workers.	ENGAGED IN				WAGES.	
		Production.		Distribution.		Productive.	Distributive.
		Number.	Per cent of total.	Number.	Per cent of total.		
1914.....	148,264	69,275	42·68	84,989	57·32	£ 3,934,783	£ 5,228,681
1915.....	155,879	66,486	42·79	88,893	57·21	4,269,017	5,659,909
1916....	158,715	62,401	39·32	96,314	60·68	4,546,874	6,291,201
1917.....	162,503	61,404	37·79	101,099	62·21	4,876,614	7,210,239

The percentage of total employees to membership of retail distributive societies—which gives an indication of the extent to which we are employing our own members—was 4·85 per cent at the end of 1914; 4·76 per cent at the end of 1915; 4·51 per cent at the end of 1916; and 4·29 at the end of 1917.

We regret to say that, owing to the reduction of staffs as a result of the war, returns of several societies have not been received. Where they are

available the figures for last year have been given as providing the best information available. We propose, now, to review the activities of the various types of societies. In the body of the statistics (pp. 704 to 807) we are able for the first time to give comparative figures for the various districts, and on pages 688 to 697 we are able to give comparisons for the various sections.

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.*

MEMBERSHIP.

Last year we were able to record that the increase in membership for 1916 created a record, and it is pleasing to note that the figures for 1917 create another record. The increase for 1917 was 268,263, as against 255,416 for the year 1916, and 210,514 for 1915. The total membership at the end of 1917 was 3,788,490. The North-Western Section shows the largest increase, with 72,757 additional members.

MEMBERSHIP OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

SECTION.	1915.	1916.	1917.	Increase for year 1917.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	
Irish	24,126	26,329	30,252	3,923
Midland	435,144	472,185	502,054	29,869
Northern	374,535	403,354	435,576	32,222
North-Western	1,269,257	1,951,308	1,424,065	72,757
Scottish	478,420	514,327	557,258	42,931
Southern	440,511	482,085	531,847	49,762
South-Western	125,347	136,498	154,537	18,039
Western	117,471	134,141	152,901	18,760
United Kingdom	3,264,811	3,520,227	3,788,490	268,263

SHARE CAPITAL.

The share capital of the retail distributive societies shows an increase of over £2,000,000 for 1917, as compared with a record increase of £4,000,000 in 1916. It should be noted that whilst the total amount of share capital has increased in all sections, there has been a tendency for the average amount per member to fall.

* In connection with the statistics for the retail distributive societies in the Western, North-Western, and Midland Sections, it is desired to point out that several societies, formerly included in the Western and North-Western Sections, are now included in the new Shropshire and Mid-Wales District, and this district is included in the Midland Section. In the tabular statement of statistics of the Shropshire and Mid-Wales district, given in the body of the Statistics for 1916 (see page 666 of the 1917 Congress Report), the districts from which the members of the new districts have been transferred are given.

SHARE CAPITAL OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

SECTION.	1915.		1916.		1917.	
	Total.	Average per Member.	Total.	Average per Member.	Total	Average per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	188,437	7·81	216,406	8·22	224,718	7·43
Midland	5,155,007	11·85	5,864,702	12·42	6,303,101	12·55
Northern	5,798,633	15·48	6,357,489	15·76	6,505,839	14·94
North-Western ...	18,847,961	14·85	20,259,789	14·99	21,284,305	14·95
Scottish	6,608,367	13·81	7,134,290	13·87	7,202,502	12·92
Southern	4,041,952	9·18	4,553,273	9·44	4,903,528	9·22
South-Western	1,206,307	9·62	1,276,955	9·36	1,325,073	8·57
Western	1,295,306	11·03	1,490,299	11·11	1,634,983	10·69
United Kingdom .	43,141,970	13·21	47,153,203	13·39	49,384,049	13·04

LOAN CAPITAL.

Loan capital also shows an increase, but comparisons in regard to loan capital are somewhat misleading, as the figures given as loan capital in the returns of retail distributive societies include bank overdrafts, penny-bank deposits, and sundry items not strictly members' loan capital. The penny bank deposits, which, at the end of 1915, amounted to £2,168,063, were at the end of 1916 £2,547,191, and £2,644,282 at the end of 1917. The detailed figures showing the detailed composition of the loan capital at the end of 1916 are given in an appendix to the Survey Committee's Report included in earlier part of this Congress Report.

LOAN CAPITAL OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

SECTION.	1915.		1916.		1917.	
	Total.	Average per Member.	Total.	Average per Member.	Total.	Average per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	29,593	1·23	39,686	1·51	57,940	1·92
Midland	712,805	1·64	767,015	1·62	813,336	1·62
Northern	581,575	1·55	665,932	1·65	693,618	1·59
North-Western	1,731,815	1·36	1,793,762	1·33	1,919,043	1·35
Scottish	1,696,420	3·55	1,836,277	3·57	1,767,131	3·17
Southern	595,618	1·35	627,357	1·30	654,176	1·23
South-Western.	129,027	1·03	179,078	1·31	201,559	1·30
Western	229,773	1·96	260,042	1·94	253,641	1·66
United Kingdom	5,706,626	1·75	6,169,149	1·75	6,362,444	1·68

RESERVE FUNDS.

The reserve and insurance funds show an increase of over £200,000 for the year, but owing to the more rapid increase of membership the average per member shows a decline when compared with the figures of twelve months ago, whilst the ratios to share capital and to total capital show an increase, partly due to the slower increase of share capital during the past year.

RESERVE FUNDS OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

SECTION.	1916.				1917.			
	Total.	Per Member.	% of Share Capital.	% of Share and Loan Capital.	Total.	Per Member.	% of Share Capital.	% of Share and Loan Capital.
	£	£	%	%	£	£	%	%
Irish	19,601	·74	9·06	7·65	24,954	·82	11·11	8·83
Midland	351,105	·74	5·99	5·29	352,915	·70	5·60	4·96
Northern	308,949	·77	4·86	4·40	332,460	·76	5·11	4·62
North-Western ..	1,156,745	·86	5·71	5·25	1,188,579	·83	5·58	5·12
Scottish	903,805	1·76	12·67	10·08	1,009,909	1·81	14·02	11·26
Southern	329,166	·68	7·23	6·35	350,927	·66	7·16	6·31
South-Western ..	171,928	1·26	13·46	11·81	178,145	1·15	13·44	11·67
Western	147,895	1·10	9·92	8·45	157,088	1·03	9·61	8·32
United Kingdom.	3,389,194	·96	7·19	6·36	3,594,977	·95	7·28	6·45

TRADE.

The figures of retail distributive trade again show a remarkable increase. Whilst the trade for 1915 revealed a record increase of £15,000,000 over the figures for 1914, and the figures for 1916 revealed a greater increase of £19,000,000 over the figures for 1915, the figures for 1917 show an even greater increase over 1916, amounting to over £20,000,000. A large part of this increase is undoubtedly due to increased membership and the high prices now prevailing. The difficulties of securing supplies have prevented societies from selling as large a quantity of goods as would otherwise have been possible. The figures of sales are given in the following tables, from which it will be seen that the sales per member are still highest in the Scottish Section :—

SALES OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

SECTION.	1915.		1916.		1917.	
	Total,	Per Member.	Total,	Per Member.	Total.	Per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	711,306	29.48	877,816	33.34	1,170,998	38.71
Midland	11,900,454	27.35	13,975,722	29.60	16,768,829	33.40
Northern	13,969,702	37.30	17,017,284	42.19	19,752,053	45.35
North-Western ..	38,416,205	30.27	44,799,153	33.15	50,720,948	35.62
Scottish	19,955,472	41.71	24,065,214	46.79	28,702,591	51.51
Southern	10,287,269	23.35	12,425,005	25.77	14,102,269	26.52
South-Western ..	2,816,726	22.47	2,883,333	21.12	3,835,863	24.82
Western	4,500,645	38.31	5,645,023	42.08	6,950,061	45.45
United Kingdom	102,557,779	31.41	121,688,550	34.57	142,003,612	37.48

OWING FOR GOODS.

The amount owing for goods shows a slight increase during 1917. It is no doubt partly accounted for by the higher prices now prevailing, but that it should increase at all, even under these circumstances, must be regretted.

OWING FOR GOODS.

SECTION.	1915.		1916.		1917.	
	Amount.	Average per Member.	Amount.	Average per Member.	Amount.	Average per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	24,074	1.00	29,448	1.12	40,989	1.35
Midland	71,517	.16	86,700	.18	77,496	.15
Northern	238,364	.64	280,016	.69	296,343	.68
North-Western	302,120	.24	352,615	.26	354,032	.25
Scottish	436,633	.91	502,993	.98	531,116	.95
Southern	102,115	.23	110,045	.23	86,448	.16
South-Western	20,296	.16	25,880	.19	25,009	.16
Western	84,818	.72	97,514	.73	96,380	.63
United Kingdom	1,279,937	.39	1,485,211	.42	1,507,813	.40

WORKERS.

The number of workers employed by retail distributive societies at the end of 1917 was 118,716, as against 115,651 last year, an increase of 3,065. The following table shows their classification, their average wage, and wages cost of distribution per £ of retail sales. These figures are doubtless affected by retention on the wage books of some employees who are serving with the Forces and receiving part wages from their society.

NUMBER OF WORKERS AND WAGES IN RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

Year.	Total.		Classed as Engaged in Production.			
	Workers.	Wages.	Number.	Per cent of Total.	Wages.	Average Wage.
		£			£	£
1914	103,074	6,319,967	25,988	25·21	1,715,038	65·99
1915	109,449	6,749,725	28,555	26·09	1,821,413	63·79
1916	115,651	7,452,616	27,129	23·46	1,978,572	72·93
1917	118,716	8,465,663	26,012	21·91	2,110,154	81·12

Year.	Classed as Engaged in Distribution.					
	Number.	Per cent of Total.	Wages.	Average Wage.	Average Sales per Distrib. Employee.	Dist. Wages Cost per £ of Sales.
			£	£	£	s. d.
1914	77,086	74·79	4,604,929	59·74	1,141	1 0½
1915	80,894	73·91	4,928,312	60·92	1,268	0 11½
1916	88,522	76·54	5,474,044	61·84	1,375	0 10½
1917	92,704	78·09	6,355,509	68·56	1,532	0 10½

PROFIT OR SURPLUS.

The profit or surplus for 1917 before paying share interest was £15,916,591 (as compared with 16,335,079 in 1916), and after paying share interest it was £13,897,746 (as compared with £14,430,452 in 1916). This profit, after paying share interest, represented 28·14 per cent of share capital and 9·72 per cent of retail sales, as compared with 30·60 per cent of share capital and 11·86 per cent of retail sales in 1916. The reduction is probably due, in part, to controlled prices and the policy of reducing prices to figures as near cost as possible. The following table shows comparisons with last year :—

PROFITS.

SECTION.	1916.			1917.		
	*Profit	Per cent of Share Capital.	Per cent of Retail Sales.	*Profit.	Per cent of Share Capital.	Per cent of Retail Sales.
	£			£		
Ireland	54,914	25·38	6·26	60,545	26·94	5·17
Midland	1,267,828	21·62	9·07	1,289,614	20·46	7·69
Northern	2,266,776	35·66	13·32	2,066,214	31·76	10·46
North-Western ..	5,606,283	27·67	12·51	5,189,492	24·38	10·23
Scottish	3,524,161	49·40	14·61	3,543,768	49·20	12·35
Southern	848,352	18·63	6·83	848,916	17·31	6·02
South-Western ..	258,218	20·22	8·96	270,560	20·42	7·05
Western	603,920	40·52	10·70	628,637	38·45	9·05
United Kingdom	14,430,452	30·60	11·86	13,897,746	28·14	9·72

* After deduction of Share Interest.

DISTRIBUTIVE FEDERATIONS.

These societies are district federations formed for the purpose of buying goods wholesale and distributing them. Their activities show very little variation from last year.

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

(EXCLUSIVE OF THE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.)

The productive societies shown in the statistics include some which are primarily associations of consumers and others which are primarily, but only in a few cases exclusively, associations of workers. The trade for the year 1917 shows an increase over that of 1916, due very largely to the higher prices now ruling and to the demand upon some of the boot societies for Army boots. The following tables give the principal points concerning these societies :—

	Number of Societies.	Number of Members.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Trade.	Surplus.	Workers Engaged.	Wages.
			£	£	£	£		£
1914.	108	36,880	987,613	834,736	3,800,627	276,792	10,725	613,555
1915.	103	34,912	842,691	845,427	3,860,052	316,896	10,657	634,921
1916.	101	35,142	869,210	902,394	4,461,491	333,842	10,284	732,106
1917.	97	36,358	899,485	905,469	5,146,459	359,740	10,038	766,846

Percentage of trade to trade of retail distributive societies .. 1914, 4.32 %

" " " .. 1915, 3.76 %

" " " .. 1916, 3.67 %

" " " .. 1917, 3.62 %

Average wage per worker 1914, £57.21

" " 1915, £59.58

" " 1916, £71.19

" " 1917, £76.39

Output per worker 1914, £354

" 1915, £362

" 1916, £434

" 1917, £513

Wages cost of production per £ of sales..... 1914, 3s. 2½d.

" " " 1915, 3s. 3½d.

" " " 1916, 3s. 3½d.

" " " 1917, 2s. 11½d.

SUPPLY ASSOCIATIONS.

The following are the statistics for the year 1916 and for the previous two years. The explanation of the drop in membership between 1914 and 1915 was given in the statistics issued last year. The Canteen and Mess Society has been taken over by the Government. This explains the diminution of trade in 1917.

	Number of Members.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Trade.	Surplus.	Workers.	Wages.
		£	£	£	£		£
1914..	95,117	380,745	194,265	2,080,245	41,470	2,099	183,528
1915..	8,478	370,447	113,504	3,280,360	54,161	1,799	172,167
1916..	8,560	370,582	64,657	3,402,308	92,328	1,661	196,866
1917..	8,282	358,492	79,896	1,712,718	58,602	1,816	164,195

THE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

The statistics of the wholesale societies show that their progress has been in harmony with the general progress that has been taking place in the whole of the movement during the last year. The statistics do not include the activities of the joint departments controlled by the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, though the products of these joint departments appear in the distributive sales of the wholesale society through which they have been sold. It should be noted in reading the last two columns of each of the following tables, that wholesale trade has been taken at wholesale prices and retail trade at retail prices.

ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP, CAPITAL, AND TRADE.

Year.	Member- ship.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Total Share and Loan Capital.	Wholesale Distrib. Trade.	
					Value.	% of Retail Distrib. Trade in England, Wales, and Ireland.
		£	£	£	£	%
1914 ..	1,193	2,130,959	4,170,058	6,301,017	34,910,813	49.91
1915 ..	1,195	2,284,757	4,356,841	6,641,598	43,101,747	52.18
1916 ..	1,189	2,653,774	4,455,517	7,109,291	52,230,074	53.60
1917 ..	1,192	2,981,133	3,956,192	6,937,325	57,710,133	50.94

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP, CAPITAL, AND TRADE.

Year.	Member- ship.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Total Share and Loan Capital.	Wholesale Distrib. Trade.	
					Value.	% of Retail Distrib. Trade in Scotland.
		£	£	£	£	%
1914 ..	266	477,010	3,653,160	4,130,170	9,425,383	52.31
1915 ..	264	502,181	3,962,452	4,464,633	11,418,354	57.22
1916 ..	262	522,454	4,042,183	4,564,637	14,502,410	60.26
1917 ..	263	593,240	3,664,578	4,257,818	17,079,842	59.51

IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP, CAPITAL, AND TRADE.

Year.	Member- ship.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Total Share and Loan Capital.	Wholesale Distrib. Trade.
					Value.
		£	£	£	£
1914 ..	..	..	..	..	..
1915 ..	327	12,158	16,067	28,225	375,379
1916 ..	381	15,819	49,699	65,518	479,877
1917 ..	453	21,216	61,971	83,187	651,567

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND IRISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES TOGETHER.

MEMBERSHIP, CAPITAL, AND TRADE.

Year.	Member- ship.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Total Share and Loan Capital.	Wholesale Distrib. Trade.	
					Value.	† % of Retail Distrib. Trade in United Kingdom.
		£	£	£	£	%
1914* ..	1,459	2,607,969	7,823,218	10,431,187	44,336,196	50.40
1915 ..	1,786	2,799,096	8,335,360	11,134,456	54,895,480	53.53
1916 ..	1,832	3,192,047	8,547,399	11,739,446	67,212,361	55.23
1917 ..	1,908	3,595,589	7,682,741	11,278,330	75,441,542	53.13

ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

NUMBER OF WORKERS; AND WAGES PAID.

Year.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		Productive.			Distributive.		
		Amount.	Average per Employee.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		No. of Workers.	Wages.	
					Amount.	Average per Employee.		Amount.	Average per Employee.
		£	£		£	£		£	£
1914	23,190	1,539,354	66.88	19,991	1,209,887	60.52	3,199	329,467	102.99
1915	23,924	1,777,406	74.29	20,482	1,406,127	68.82	3,492	371,279	106.32
1916	22,215	1,819,727	81.91	18,673	1,430,054	76.58	3,542	389,673	110.01
1917	22,777	1,983,869	87.10	19,082	1,558,044	81.65	3,695	425,825	115.24

* English and Scottish Wholesale Societies only.

† Wholesale trade at wholesale prices, retail trade at retail prices.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

NUMBER OF WORKERS; AND WAGES PAID.

Year.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		Productive.			Distributive.		
		Amount.	Average per Employee.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		No. of Workers.	Wages.	
					Amount.	Average per Employee.		Amount.	Average per Employee.
		£	£		£	£		£	£
1914	8,877	530,878	59.75	6,134	410,223	66.88	2,743	120,155	43.80
1915	9,108	554,634	60.98	7,215	433,920	60.14	1,888	120,714	63.94
1916	8,307	593,165	71.41	6,867	463,103	67.44	1,440	130,062	90.32
1917	8,522	655,874	76.96	6,977	509,720	73.06	1,545	146,154	94.60

IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

NUMBER OF WORKERS; AND WAGES PAID.

Year.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		Productive.			Distributive.		
		Amount.	Average per Employee.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		No. of Workers.	Wages.	
					Amount.	Average per Employee.		Amount.	Average per Employee.
		£	£					£	£
1914	81	5,400	66.67	..	..	..	81	5,400	66.67
1915	100	6,854	68.54	..	..	..	100	6,854	68.54
1917	125	10,730	85.84	..	..	..	125	10,730	85.84

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND IRISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES TOGETHER.

NUMBER OF WORKERS; AND WAGES PAID.

Year.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		Productive.			Distributive.		
		Amount.	Average per Employee.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		No. of Workers.	Wages.	
					Amount.	Average per Employee.		Amount.	Average per Employee.
		£	£		£	£		£	£
1914*	82,067	2,069,732	64.54	26,125	1,620,110	62.01	5,942	449,622	75.67
1915	83,108	2,337,440	70.60	27,647	1,840,047	66.56	5,461	497,393	91.08
1916	30,622	2,419,746	79.02	25,540	1,893,157	74.13	5,082	526,589	103.62
1917	31,424	2,650,473	84.35	26,059	2,037,764	79.35	5,365	532,709	108.61

* English and Scottish only.

ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

VALUE OF PRODUCTIONS; AND RELATED STATISTICS.

Year.	Value of Productions.	Rate % of Productions to		Capital engaged in Production.	Output per Productive Worker	Wages cost of Production per £ of Production.	Wholesale Sales per Distributive Employee.	Wages cost of Distribution per £ of Wholesale Sales.
		Wholesale Sales.	*Retail Sales in England, Wales, & Ireland.					
	£	%	%	£	£	s. d.	£	d.
1914	9,109,818	26.09	13.02	3,116,057	456	2 7½	10,913	2.27
1915	12,895,914	29.92	15.61	3,591,442	631	2 2½	12,343	2.07
1916	16,867,509	31.34	16.77	4,193,145	877	1 9	14,746	1.79
1917	18,581,555	32.20	16.40	4,907,873	974	1 8	15,618	1.77

* Productions taken at factory values, and retail sales at retail prices.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

VALUE OF PRODUCTIONS; AND RELATED STATISTICS.

Year.	Value of Productions.	Rate % of Productions to		Capital engaged in Production.	Output per Productive Worker	Wages cost of Production per £ of Production.	Wholesale Sales per Distributive Employee.	Wages cost of Distribution per £ of Wholesale Sales.
		Wholesale Sales.	* Retail Sales in Scotland					
	£	%	%	£	£	s. d.	£	d.
1914	2,807,047	29.78	15.58	924,734	458	2 11	3,436	3.06
1915	3,697,821	32.38	18.53	1,078,529	513	2 4½	6,048	2.54
1916	4,708,104	32.46	19.56	1,309,962	686	1 11½	10,071	2.15
1917	6,294,857	36.86	21.93	1,328,712	902	1 7½	11,055	2.05

ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

VALUE OF PRODUCTIONS; AND RELATED STATISTICS.

Year.	Value of Productions.	Rate % of Productions to		Capital engaged in Production.	Output per Productive Worker	Wages cost of Production per £ of Production.	Wholesale Sales per Distributive Employee.	Wages cost of Distribution per £ of Wholesale Sales.
		Wholesale Sales.	*Retail Sales in the United Kingdom					
	£	%	%	£	£	s. d.	£	d.
1914	11,916,365	26.88	13.55	4,040,791	456	2 8½	7,461	2.43
1915	16,593,735	30.23	16.18	4,669,971	600	2 2½	10,052	2.17
1916	21,075,613	31.36	18.14	5,503,107	825	1 9½	13,226	1.88
1917	21,876,412	33.26	17.52	6,236,585	955	1 8	14,273	1.84

* Productions taken at factory values, and retail sales at retail prices.

SUMMARIES

— AND —

STATISTICS.

Summary for each Section

Showing Statistics for each type of Society in

IRISH

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Owing to the Society for Goods
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	40	26329	216406	39686	19001	121802	110152	8908	70558	29448
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	47	30252	224718	57940	24954	139075	121225	12303	80057	40989
Increase	7	3923	8312	18254	5353	17183	11073	3485	9499	11541
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1916-Wholesale Scy.	1	381	15819	49690	11090	31223	6036	..	6429	74232
1917-Wholesale Scy.	1	453	21226	61971	8705	61941	..	..	5753	89871
Increase .....	..	72	5407	12272	..	30718	..	..	..	15639
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	2295	..	6036	..	676	..

MIDLAND

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Owing to the Society for Goods
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	174	472185	5864702	767015	351105	1958407	2217741	1182286	2441255	86700
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	174	502054	6303101	813336	352915	2208108	2297600	1131838	2639647	77496
Increase .....	..	29869	438399	46321	1810	249701	79851	..	195392	..
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50448	..	6204
1916-Productv. Scs.	38	10756	214611	202079	132176	331965	131738	59202	82864	121433
1917-Productv. Scs.	37	11069	225608	202711	155484	389648	124384	54406	82229	197256
Increase .....	..	313	10997	632	23308	57683	..	..	..	75823
Decrease	1	..	..	..	..	..	7354	4795	635	..
1916-Special Scy. ..	1	60	916	..	415	36	..	538	812	..
1917-Special Scy. ..	1	60	971	..	423	20	..	858	730	..
Increase .....	..	..	55	..	8	..	..	319	..	..
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	82	..

each Section during each of the two years.

SECTION.

No of Employees on Dec. 31st.				Sales and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.		Productive.		Distributive.			Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid s Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
												Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Char- itable Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
				£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.
1	722	228	46358	10964	877816	64547	9633	2566	1317	375	109 13	2		
2	756	290	49267	14486	1170998	70897	10352	2606	1530	460	128 17	1		
	34	62	2909	3522	263182	6350	719	40	213	85	19 3	11		
			
3	100	..	6854	..	479877	4989	800	500	3 0	0				
4	125	..	10730	..	651567	5377	1060	500	..	..	3 0	0		
	25	..	3876	..	171690	588	260	..	..	..	....
			

SECTION.

[illegible]

NORTHERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.			
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments House Prop- erty.	Owing to the Society for Goods
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	133	403354	6357489	665932	308949	1831222	1708239	1159019	230016
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	133	435576	6505839	695618	332460	2023514	1643569	1124429	296343
Increase .....	..	32222	148350	20686	23511	192292	64670	24590	32151
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16327
1916-Productv. Scs.	6	927	47914	87314	4109	21936	72408	..	14491
1917-Productv. Scs.	6	1024	50192	93581	4895	22816	71752	..	14056
Increase .....	..	97	2278	6267	789	880	.. 650	..	9825
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	435

NORTH-WESTERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.			
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments House Prop- erty.	Owing to the Society for Goods
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	423	1351808	20259789	1793762	1156745	5407906	5958882	4978645	352615
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	422	1424065	21284305	1919043	1188579	6140462	5888940	4585748	354082
Increase .....	..	72757	1024516	125281	31834	732456	..	392897	1417
Decrease	1	..	..	..	..	..	64042	229058	..
1916-District Fed. .	5	60	27200	85	1854	2724	1285	1851	27867
1917-District Fed. .	5	60	29224	50	1767	3319	1202	1778	28466
Increase .....	..	..	1964	..	..	595	..	590	1171
Decrease .....	..	..	..	35	87	..	83	73	..
1916-Productv. Scs.	25	4907	213448	118309	63430	155899	176212	146	82562
1917-Productv. Scs.	23	5038	215951	118868	67836	172637	161895	..	73475
Increase .....	..	41	2503	559	4406	16738	..	15884	9281
Decrease	2	..	..	..	..	..	14317	146	..
1916-Supply Assoc.	1	349	1995	..	1140	1757	101	169	1372
1917-Supply Assoc.	1	349	1995	..	1140	1757	101	169	1372
Increase .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1916-Wholesale Secy.	1	1180	2653774	4455517	2275078	5135546	2573718	6256	2246005
1917-Wholesale Secy.	1	1192	2981133	3956192	3308230	6187145	2927350	4637	1590076
Increase .....	..	3	327359	..	1082152	1051599	353682	..	2349142
Decrease .....	..	..	..	499325	..	..	..	1619	849689
1916-Special Secy. .	1	3	20000	23804	736204	..	25030	71155	705203
1917-Special Secy. .	1	3	20000	35004	834083	..	24840	65088	813845
Increase .....	..	..	..	11800	97879	..	..	108642	16464
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	190	6067	19700

SECTION.

No of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
								Educational Purposcs.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1	11161	2841	698231	202675	17017284	2544503	277727	1526	6680	7777	1941	3 5
2	11483	2832	786697	208732	19752053	2358504	292290	136	6683	11034	2112	1 1
	322	.. 9	88466	6057	2734769	..	14563	..	3	3257	170	17 8
	..	..	..	..	..	185999	..	1290	..	..	....
3	5	384	342	23593	332049	7107	2013	..	..	7	6	4 4
4	4	366	310	22757	374081	8982	2087	..	..	42	6	9 11
	..	..	..	..	41132	1875	74	..	..	35	0	5 7
	1	18	32	836	..	..	..	..	..	..	....

SECTION.

[illegible]

SCOTTISH

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Build- ings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	261	514327	7134290	1826277	903895	2516550	2454152	843432	5585582	502993	1
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	231	557258	7202502	1767131	1002909	2936724	2311485	773400	5206793	531116	2
Increase .....	..	42031	68212	..	106104	420174	..	70032	328700	28123	
Decrease .....	..	..	..	69146	..	..	142667	..	..	..
1916-Productv. Scs.	14	13157	354969	451629	126743	121714	327216	15046	489315	52713	3
1917-Productv. Scs.	14	14002	370090	449596	143169	94827	299671	26339	549802	51436	4
Increase .....	..	905	15121	..	16426	..	..	11293	60487	..	
Decrease .....	..	..	..	2033	..	26887	27545	..	..	1277	
1916-Wholesale Scy.	1	262	522454	4042183	896963	1909534	659979	40434	2754159	578677	5
1917-Wholesale Scy.	1	263	593240	3664578	961143	1985853	684799	51088	2813212	578693	6
Increase .....	..	1	70786	..	64150	70289	24820	10654	59053	..	16
Decrease .....	..	..	..	377605	..	..	..	..	..	..

SOUTHERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Build- ings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	176	482085	4553273	627357	329166	1742433	1863501	567356	1960824	110045	1
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	169	531847	4903528	654176	350927	1957764	1922215	474748	2187510	86448	2
Increase .....	..	49762	350255	26816	21761	215331	58744	..	226680	..	
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92608	..	23597	
1916-Productv. Scs.	14	4935	35041	39798	9176	15763	43318	3970	7812	22470	3
1917-Productv. Scs.	13	4800	33825	37707	9174	14901	37531	596	16781	22228	4
Increase .....	..	..	..	..	4	..	862	5788	8969	..	
Decrease	1	135	1210	2091	..	..	..	3371	..	248	
1916-Supply Assoc.	2	7906	306347	61285	221036	347219	236874	24567	205291	150181	5
1917-Supply Assoc.	1	7559	353926	75752	126904	328795	201256	24572	123913	36140	6
Increase .....	..	..	..	14467	..	..	..	5	81378	114041	
Decrease	1	347	12427	..	94132	18424	35610	..	..	..
1916-Special Socs...	3	335	1500	4031	1011	371	3874	..	1402	3774	7
1917-Special Socs...	2	215	640	488	1232	397	32	..	1658	1088	8
Increase .....	..	..	..	..	221	26	..	..	256	..	
Decrease	1	120	944	3543	..	..	3842	..	..	1786	

SECTION.

No of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Proft.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
								Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
1	18166	7699	£ 1036277	£ 547419	£ 24065214	£ 3809658	£ 285497	£ 18912	£ 21675	£ 21907	£ s. d.
2	19495	7449	1208763	582135	28702591	3841996	295228	18637	20896	22188	2295 0 5 2455 14 3
	1829	..	172486	34716	4637377	32338	12731	..	..	231	160 13 10
	..	250	..	..	..	..	..	275	779	..	....
3	622	2016	59923	141916	1677505	149064	16761	9606	1605	1707	67 10 8
4	737	1997	68080	166147	1947286	145897	17581	8543	1399	1826	69 1 6
	115	..	8107	14231	266786	..	820	..	..	119	1 4 10
	..	19	..	..	..	3167	..	1063	206	..	....
5	1440	6867	130062	463103	14502410	552116	25932	10870	..	12820	132 0 0
6	1545	6977	146154	509720	17079842	500915	28618	10016	..	5290	132 0 0
	105	110	16092	46617	2577432	..	2686	..	..	7530	....
	..	..	..	..	..	51201	..	854	..	..	....

SECTION.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.		Net Profit	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
								Educational Pur-poses.	Char-itable Pur-poses.	Co-operative Union.	
1	11560	2509	£ 717483	£ 220332	£ 12425005	£ 1043459	£ 195107	£ 13050	£ 15583	£ 8129	£ s. d. 2233 10 7
2	12203	2304	804142	223887	14102269	1063872	214956	12489	15114	6896	2468 2 1
	643	..	86659	3555	1677264	20413	19849	561	469	1233	234 11 6
	..	205	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
3	55	274	4366	23653	147094	11100	894	601	77	95	4 14 3
4	42	207	3687	20538	156273	13397	679	1084	111	148	3 12 8
	13	67	679	3115	9179	2297	215	483	34	53	1 1 7

5	1454	203	175434	20771	3359428	91130	621	..	..	208	44 1 6
6	1643	158	141779	21051	1662654	57235	..	..	..	119	39 4 0
	189	..	33655	280	1696774	33895	621	..	..	89	4 17 6
	..	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	27	..	654	..	26381	574	76	..	3	1	....
8	3	..	172	..	23336	539	30	250	5	1	....
	24	..	482	..	3045	35	46	250	2	..	....

SOUTH-WESTERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Ow ng to the Society for Goods
								House Prop- erty.	All other Inves- tments.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	75	130498	1276955	179078	171928	578221	645466	194512	383703	25886
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	74	154537	1325073	201559	178145	653493	670404	182902	361009	25009
Increase .....	..	18039	48118	22461	6217	75272	24998	..	..	..
Decrease	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	11610	24694	871
1916-Productv. Scs.	2	280	1062	1201	235	696	3145	..	216	832
1917-Productv. Scs.	2	281	2312	1376	248	1460	2564	..	210	1083
Increase .....	..	1	350	115	13	764	..	..	..	251
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	581	..	..	..

WESTERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Ow ng to the Society for Goods
								House Prop- erty.	All other Inves- tments.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	86	134141	1490299	260042	147895	814648	463982	260601	577550	97514
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	85	152901	1634983	253641	157085	972042	495687	219535	653626	96380
Increase .....	..	18760	144084	..	9193	157394	1705	..	76076	..
Decrease	1	..	..	6401	..	..	..	41066	..	1134
1916-Productv. Scs.	2	90	1265	2004	416	480	2554	..	256	653
1917-Productv. Scs.	2	84	1507	1630	357	621	2681	..	232	477
Increase .....	..	..	242	..	..	141	127	..	..	..
Decrease .....	..	6	..	374	59	..	..	..	27	176
1916-Supply Assoc.	1	305	2240	3372	157	2763	750	..	1323	4329
1917-Supply Assoc.	1	374	2577	4144	24	2759	576	..	886	6360
Increase .....	..	69	337	772	..	..	..	..	..	2040
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	193	4	174	..	437	..

SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	3486	853	165476	54882	2883333	309786	51568	1788	3846	1721	699 5 9
2	3610	918	215922	73734	3835563	329861	59301	5127	4982	2106	704 15 4
	124	65	50446	18852	952530	29075	7733	3339	1086	385	5 9 7

3	..	22	..	1976	5988	246	90	60	10	5	1 12 6
4	..	30	..	2365	6918	313	95	32	6	2	1 8 7
	..	8	..	389	920	67	5	..	..	..	...
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	4	3	0 3 11

SECTION.

[illegible]

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Ow ng to the Society for Goods
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-Retail Dis. Scs.	1862	3520227	47153203	6169624	3389194	14070379	15417123	9194759	23884925	1485211
1917-Retail Dis. Scs.	1866	3788490	49384040	6362444	3594977	17031182	15321215	8504993	23841587	1507813
Increase	4	268263	2230846	192820	205783	2060803	95906	689766	43338	22602
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1916-District Fed. .	5	60	27260	85	1854	2724	1285	1851	27867	7345
1917-District Fed. .	5	60	29224	50	1767	3319	1202	1778	28466	8516
Increase .....	..	..	1964	..	..	595	..	..	590	1171
Decrease .....	..	..	..	35	87	..	83	73	..	..
1916-Productv. Scs.	101	35142	869210	902394	336279	648453	756586	78264	683825	295160
1917-Productv. Scs.	97	36358	899485	905469	381166	696910	700484	81347	778322	378379
Increase .....	..	1216	30275	3075	44887	48457	..	2963	94497	83219
Decrease	4	..	..	..	..	..	56102	..	..	..
1916-Supply Assoc.	4	8500	370582	64657	222333	351736	237725	24736	207966	157340
1917-Supply Assoc.	3	8282	358492	79896	129068	333311	201935	24741	126171	45339
Increase .....	..	..	..	15239	..	..	..	5	..	..
Decrease	1	278	12090	..	94265	18428	35790	..	81815	112001
1916-Special Socs...	6	420	22936	29886	737630	1453	29000	71694	708748	20238
1917-Special Socs...	4	278	21617	30092	835738	417	24872	65946	810223	21685
Increase .....	..	..	..	6206	98108	..	..	..	107485	1447
Decrease	2	142	1319	..	..	1036	4128	5748	..	..
1916-English C.W.S.	1	1189	2653774	4455517	2275078	5135540	2573718	6256	2246665	2349142
1917-English C.W.S.	1	1192	2981123	3956192	3308230	6187145	2927350	4637	1396976	2138376
Increase .....	..	3	327359	..	1033152	1051599	353632	..	1610	849689
Decrease .....	..	..	..	499825	..	..	..	..	..	210766
1916-Scottish C.W.S	1	262	522454	4042183	896963	1909564	659979	40434	2754159	578677
1917-Scottish C.W.S	1	263	593240	3664578	961143	1085853	684799	51088	2813212	578603
Increase .....	..	1	70786	..	64180	76289	24820	10654	59053	16
Decrease .....	..	..	..	377605	..	..	..	..	..	..
1916-Irish A.W.S...	1	381	15819	49099	11000	31223	6036	..	6429	74232
1917-Irish A.W.S...	1	453	21216	61971	8705	61941	..	..	5753	89871
Increase .....	..	72	5397	12272	..	30718	..	..	..	15639
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	2295	..	6036	..	676	..

[illegible]

in 1917 as compared with 1916.

SILK, AND WOOL.

AND LEATHER.

HARDWARE, &c.

WORKERS.

[illegible]

BUILDING AND

YEAR.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.			
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	
								House Property.	All other Investments.
1914	4	710	£ 14530	£ 83180	£ 3519	£ 13132	£ 12705	£ 66535	£ 10477
1915	4	701	14123	84513	3572	8000	12120	66523	9896
1916	4	688	14526	73240	6147	5167	14412	61771	6151
1917	4	687	14545	66317	4075	3005	11055	53933	8473
Increase for year 1917	..	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	2322
Decrease for year 1917	..	1	..	6932	2072	2072	2757	7838	..

PRINTING AND

1914	15	2776	£ 68437	£ 31069	£ 12747	£ 21504	£ 66054	£ 686	£ 15109
1915	16	2756	70256	33565	20372	22268	70414	669	17059
1916	16	2773	70397	36238	25189	40821	66425	..	22167
1917	16	2859	73990	38335	31461	60880	66921	..	30043
Increase for year 1917	..	86	3602	2097	6272	20050	4.6	..	8476
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

CORN

1914	6	3119	£ 223869	£ 29845	£ 5823	£ 93482	£ 94284	£ ..	£ 43703
1915	3	546	20389	25443	107	12727	16244	..	17059
1916	3	532	20425	28136	137	13001	16860	..	18227
1917	3	537	20465	27204	187	12850	16618	..	18273
Increase for year 1917	..	5	40	..	50	..	..	..	46
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	932	..	241	251	..	..

BAKING.

1914	6	3714	£ 12048	£ 4830	£ 1486	£ 2777	£ 13322	£ 1261	£ 1602
1915	7	3882	13818	8037	1551	3360	16843	1253	2215
1916	7	4073	14109	10272	1777	2889	16782	194	2770
1917	6	4063	12553	8540	2082	2466	15821	175	4526
Increase for year 1917	..	10	1556	1782	305	..	..	..	1756
Decrease for year 1917	1	..	..	..	..	423	961	19	..

LAUNDRIES.

1914	6	115	£ 49862	£ 29229	£ 2176	£ 1592	£ 61967	£ ..	£ 20600
1915	6	117	52021	41837	2601	2862	72252	..	23254
1916	7	139	59831	53624	2956	5172	87330	..	27894
1917	7	140	60567	63124	3712	6282	86931	..	37858
Increase for year 1917	..	1	736	9500	756	1110	..	..	9964
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	..	..	..	399	..	..

VARIOUS.

1914	6	1138	£ 27057	£ 10631	£ 6446	£ 17791	£ 18053	£ ..	£ 6655
1915	6	1166	28433	10006	5984	20727	17114	..	10815
1916	5	1188	30682	9830	7662	27571	16886	..	7697
1917	5	1339	36376	9610	11826	30726	16432	..	12703
Increase for year 1917	..	151	5694	..	4164	3155	..	..	5006
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	220	..	..	454	..	..

		NET SURPLUS (after paying interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.									
Owing to Society for Goods.	No. of Employees on December 31st.	Salaries and Wages.	Trade during the Year.	Amount of Surplus for 1917.	Share In- terest.	To Capital.	To Labour.	To Pur- chaser.	Subscriptions.		
						Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Educa- tional Purposes.	Charl- table Purpos.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1	607	32	9388	22928	783	729	5	3
2	7599	28	7437	20232	461	796	3	18
3	7402	18	4779	13406	538	299	3	2
4	8934	14	1240	7167	1431	504	3	2
	1532	..	4	3539	6239	893	205
		..	4	3539	6239	893	205

[illegible]

	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
1	62303	266	21533	1033088	33588	9558	..	65	13477	19	384
2	4877	57	4487	188764	3732	934	2535	..	60
3	6220	81	5044	240526	3558	936	2486	..	8
4	5508	55	4672	247452	3638	920	..	8	62	..	10
	712	.. 6	372	926	80	16	..	8	2424	..	2

	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	3453		5383	55743	8934	574	..	..	7016	115
2	5356	74	7082	73812	8957	659	..	..	7202	92
3	6513	105	8347	93908	9310	568	..	..	6994	10
4	5916	50	5357	104478	9719	605	..	..	7233	25
	597	55	2990	10570	409	7	..	..	239	15

	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1	2348	607	25342	62034	13715	2126	..	..	4199	..	11
2	3310	715	27725	67404	13546	2404	..	..	2510	..	105
3	3891	832	35614	87638	7918	2903	158	..	2732	..	10
4	4457	688	40686	96934	10029	2936	..	..	3772	..	37
	566		5072	9296	2111	33			1040	..	27
	144						158				

[illegible]

SCOT COTTON AND

YEAR.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.			
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	
								House Property.	All other Investments.
1914	1	5423	52393	78919	8252	25820	38063	6606	65910
1915	1	5833	57305	74055	9816	29020	40041	6816	59635
1916	1	6268	60724	79280	9707	31290	38535	6706	74373
1917	1	6943	69957	82823	11038	42515	36715	6596	77777
Increase for year 1917	..	675	9233	3543	1331	11225	..	..	3404
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	..	..	..	1820	110	..

PRINTING AND

1914	3	422	12043	8561	4850	679	15087	1500	3697
1915	3	424	12049	7700	4864	1072	16087	..	3613
1916	3	425	12048	688	4957	1642	15604	..	4558
1917	3	421	12051	7574	5280	2760	15028	..	4028
Increase for year 1917	..	..	3	6886	332	1118	..	..	..
Decrease for year 1917	..	4	..	..	..	..	576	..	530

BAKING.

1914	11	6944	265180	313116	91870	57670	270349	14518	341178
1915	10	7001	274262	344545	100096	56446	269267	11034	394434
1916	9	6386	277137	358908	109713	87557	261530	8340	403379
1917	9	6620	283022	346996	124207	48313	237013	19743	460925
Increase for year 1917	..	234	5885	..	14494	..	..	11403	57546
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	11812	..	39244	24517	..	..

LAUNDRY.

1914	1	74	3135	11544	2215	501	11083	..	5688
1915	1	75	4795	11651	2210	828	11156	..	6859
1916	1	78	5060	12852	2367	1225	11547	..	7005
1917	1	78	5060	12203	2635	1239	10915	..	7072
Increase for year 1917	..	..	..	..	268	14	..	..	67
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	649	..	..	632	..	..

ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE

1914	1	..	..	3116057	..	1600594	1096760	..	..
1915	1	..	..	3591442	..	1780324	1151694	..	..
1916	1	..	..	4193145	..	2147775	1133320	..	..
1917	1	..	..	4907873	..	3067440	1240360	..	..
Increase for year 1917	..	..	..	714728	..	919665	107040	..	..
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE

1914	1	..	..	924734	..	737539	330791	..	..
1915	1	..	..	1078529	..	880762	303881	..	..
1916	1	..	..	1309962	..	995488	304784	..	..
1917	1	..	..	1328712	..	893846	298472	..	..
Increase for year 1917	..	..	..	18750	..	..	..	..	..
Decrease for year 1917	..	..	..	..	..	101642	6312	..	..

LAND. **WOOL.**

	Owing to Society for Goods.	No. of Employees on December 31st.	Salaries and Wages.	Trade during the Year.	Amount of Surplus for 1917.	Share Interest.	NET SURPLUS (after paying interest stated) HOW DIVIDED.				
							To Capital.	To Labour.	To Purchaser.	Subscriptions.	
							Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Educational Purpose.	Charitable Purpose.
	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	10917	500	25489	160843	16517	2558	..	1195	13342	53	432
2	16182	489	27918	197362	13255	2720	..	392	2331	..	260
3	16525	460	30912	211020	14232	2999	..	1128	2423	..	390
4	16190	375	26810	285054	19954	3336	..	1030	47837	..	368
	335	85	4102	74034	5722	337	..	98	5414	..	22

BOOKBINDING.

	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	0542	105	8548	20894	1480	679	..	74	..	..	29
2	6214	108	7729	19132	1116	130	..	51	..	..	42
3	5905	104	7706	21094	836	503	..	57	..	..	99
4	7553	99	8337	23496	849	503	..	..	..	..	30
	1648	5	631	2402	13	..	..	57	..	..	69

	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	20858	1871	128292	882218	107439	12268	..	9080	80642	1301	1465
2	23219	1760	135772	1155608	128375	12831	..	8931	88204	1562	1020
3	29348	1859	151622	1420009	132566	15010	..	8421	96316	1595	1195
4	26422	1359	110676	1615187	124575	13489	..	7513	88126	1390	1420
	2926	500	40946	195178	7991	479	..	908	10190	205	225

	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	540	281	10756	24003	3264	155	..	..	2700	14	60
2	721	287	11283	24992	2713	178	..	..	2373	11	55
3	935	215	11599	25382	1429	249	..	..	1139	10	23
4	1271	164	10324	25340	619	253	..	..	..	9	8
	336	51	1275	1833	910	4	..	..	1139	1	15

WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	..	19991	1209887	9109318	215151	87333	..	..	..	..	..
2	..	20432	1406127	12895914	295067	96293	..	..	..	..	..
3	..	18673	1430054	16367509	374780	114027	..	..	..	..	..
4	..	19082	1558044	18581555	418653	148408	..	..	..	..	..
	..	409	127990	2214046	43873	34381	..	..	..	..	..

WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	..	6134	410223	2807047	122475	38646	..	..	..	..	..
2	..	7215	433920	3697821	105272	29903	..	..	..	..	..
3	..	6867	463103	4708104	103795	29677	..	..	..	..	..
4	..	6977	509720	6294857	123117	43893	..	..	..	..	..
	..	110	46617	1586753	19322	14216	..	..	..	..	..

Statistics of Societies' Trade

IRISH

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Distributive

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Societys for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
IRELAND.									
Retail Distrib. Societies—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ardara	105	82	1727	235	1198	864	..	31	723
Armagh	470	3618	1314	65	1510	3404	..	394	537
*Ballinagleragh	769	3049	29	47	1164	433	..	1923	640
Ballymena and Harryville..	17400	166738	21774	12408	75606	93665	12393	58180	724
Belfast									
dClanwilliam	164	306	..	..	..	..	..	306	..
†Clonmel	135	614	59	24	1271	146	..	483	99
Coalisland	393	685	22	..	335	234	..	417	533
Cork (City of)	138	460	..	170	948	..	..	366	183
Donacloney	80	93	676	..	754	250	..	4	707
Downstrands	116	615	23	142	704	10	..	220	267
Drumaness	116	283	78	..	644	22	..	70	65
Drumreany	1203	1411	1915	8	1557	2348	..	1701	705
Dublin	804	1561	..	..	1445	1021	..	89	696
Dublin Consumers	193	319	..	1	104	92	..	16	86
Dublin University	373	1605	692	114	922	1307	..	322	323
Dundalk	149	571	..	..	634	225	..	10	152
Dungannon									
*Dunraymond	1257	4385	15173	3697	15759	443	..	373	5639
Enniscorthy	667	3437	227	85	1996	945	..	800	1012
Enniskillen	127	227	166	60	382	40	..	6	240
Foynes	73	441	..	660	1284	20	..	546	75
Greenore	140	74	669	..	905	41	..	8	488
Gweedore	102	360	628	..	232	1015	..	115	370
Inchicore	300	138	1814	3	2332	42	..	150	1601
Inniskiel	117	66	633	..	446	35	..	6	302
Killybegs	117	388	25	..	702	207	..	509	559
Larne	1760	24649	1675	2223	11375	7934	..	8101	6723
Lisburn									
dLissarda	177	382	193	465	760	490	..	527	103
Lucan	98	84	893	..	219	58	..	..	322
Middletown									
*Moycullen	276	557	42	200	401	105	..	259	306
Newtownards	110	182	500	..	742	62	..	5	726
Ochilmore	454	3781	620	312	1557	714	..	1781	1540
Portadown	370	990	76	521	1411	282	..	374	342
Queenstown	63	250	79	100	540	10	..	263	566
Rosslare Harbour									
*Shamrock	126	180	254	172	499	23	..	7	347
Slieve League	323	314	50	43	965	136	..	67	289
Sligo	16	28	..	..	32	19	..	..	133
cSouth County Dublin									

* No recent figures available. † Just commenced business. c 1916 Figures. d Not commenced trading. f Farmers' accounts mainly.

for the Year 1917.

SECTION.

Co-operative Societies in IRELAND, for 1917.

from the Registrar's Return for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	s. d.
1	4	..	206	..	9673	304	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	13	3	896	115	18527	439	152	0 8	..	..	6	2 4 10
3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	15	..	816	..	23103	509	138	1 0	..	14	..	4 0 2
5	467	71	31581	4479	635165	53948	8160	1 2	2411	1402	320	83 6 8
6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
8	3	..	217	..	8407	270	27	..	..	..	2	0 12 11
9	3	5	301	300	7468	e11	..	..	..	..	2	..
10	5	..	204	..	7447	295	19	1 0	22	..	..	..
11	3	..	133	..	5545	116	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	3	..	183	..	4887	333	29	1 6	11	..	2	0 10 0
13	2	..	144	..	6376	122	12	2 0	..	..	..	0 12 0
14	16	4	1292	410	18770	e54	..	..	..	..	8	3 4 9
15	24	..	1848	..	20436	e485	..	..	..	3	..	3 18 1
16	1	..	51	..	1189	e150	..	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
17	9	..	661	..	8852	e3	61	1 0	..	..	..	1 17 11
18	4	..	274	..	7297	e63	..	..	..	..	..	0 13 6
19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	42	28	1032	606	69678	2261	219	0 6	23	..	..	1 5 0
21	13	..	609	..	22802	714	81	1 3	21	..	..	3 6 0
22	1	..	58	..	4963	74	11	..	..	..	1	0 12 5
23	4	..	241	..	6596	742	..	2 6	48	..	2	0 7 6
24	4	..	220	..	5888	180	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	4	..	187	..	3249	e68	..	..	..	..	..	0 12 6
26	9	..	344	..	18256	291	..	1 0	..	..	..	..
27	2	..	114	..	4083	123	..	..	..	..	..	..
28	4	..	234	..	8714	146	16	0 6	5	..	3	0 15 1
29	50	7	3494	261	85957	5222	1118	1 3	..	107	96	8 11 10
30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
31	6	..	232	..	8428	539	16	1 3	10	..	4	1 15 4
32	2	..	78	..	2945	e55	..	..	1	..	1	0 10 2
33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34	4	..	252	..	5259	173	21	..	..	..	2	1 6 0
35	4	2	204	90	4086	164	4	0 6	..	..	..	0 11 6
36	11	..	701	..	21187	1183	159	1 3½	34	4	6	2 4 4
37	8	..	553	..	12441	515	36	0 10	6	..	2	1 18 6
38	4	..	129	..	4494	136	11	0 7½	..	..	..	0 6 10
39	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
40	3	..	129	..	5487	177	..	1 6	9	..	..	..
41	3	..	149	..	2829	e35	12	..	..	..	..	1 0 0
42	1	..	10	..	686	5	..	..	..	..	..	..

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
<i>IRELAND—Continued.</i>		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Springfield	75	447	..	1735	1076	15	..	..	2666
Tempocrone	300	330	5750	1464	5986	427	..	514	7137
Warrenpoint	198	446	164	..	737	73	..	60	95
†Waterford	398	642	..	..	..	38	..	604	..
*Whealt .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Retail Societies Total	30252	224718	579·0	24954	139075	121225	12393	80067	40989
Productive Society— Electric Lamp Users ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wholesale Society— Irish Agricultural.....	453	21216	61971	8705	61941	..	..	5753	89871
Total for Section	30705	245934	119911	39659	2010 6	121225	12393	85810	130860
District Total for previous year (1916)	26329	216406	39686	19601	121892	110152	8908	70558	29448
Wholesale Society Total for previous year (1916)	381	15819	49699	11000	31223	6036	..	6429	74232
Total for Section for previous year (1916)	26710	232225	89385	30601	153115	116188	8908	76987	103680

* No recent figures available.

† Just commenced business.

d Not commenced trading.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
43	8	..	208	..	29044	240	83	..	..	..	..	....
44	20	170	1100	8225	56616	1502	..	1 6	..	..	..	....
45	2	..	182	..	3728	174	17	..	5	..	3	0 19 6
46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 10 5
47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 4
	756	290	49267	14486	117098	†70897	10352	..	2606	1530	460	128 17 1
48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
49	125	..	10730	..	651567	5577	1060	..	..	500	..	3 0 0
	881	290	59997	14486	1822565	76474	11412	..	2606	2030	460	181 17 1
	722	228	46358	10964	877816	64547	9633	..	2566	1817	375	109 13 2
	100	..	6854	..	479877	4989	800	..	..	500	..	3 0 0
	822	228	59212	10964	1357693	69536	10433	..	2566	1817	375	112 13 2

† Before deducting the loss of £924.

MIDLAND

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
RUTLAND, SALOP, STAFFORD, WARWICK, and Part of WORCESTER,

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
No. 1—NORTHAMPTON & EARLS BARTON DISTRICT—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Brafield	294	5105	204	260	723	518	600	4005	.. 1
Brington	150	597	..	150	425	30	..	723	.. 2
*Brixworth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 3
Cogenhoe Self-Help	128	1120	..	116	241	5	..	1086	.. 4
Daventry	1341	16821	3280	415	6565	3754	5238	5824	269 5
Denton	92	309	..	58	213	96	..	120	6 6
Earls Barton	977	19216	1150	1083	3227	8014	4056	7485	50 7
East Haddon	66	177	..	127	222	..	..	152	6 8
Ecton	143	687	1	226	250	..	..	868	41 9
Hackleton	182	2281	..	233	462	435	270	1570	52 10
Harlestone	152	550	25	50	298	42	..	656	.. 11
Harpole	724	10098	5104	229	3349	2370	2055	7566	205 12
I.L.P. Boot	15	19	..	500	1029	46	..	484	125 13
Long Buckby	1187	27613	1353	1421	7176	16209	7832	1951	.. 14
Moulton	363	2951	..	709	1303	1167	1093	513	108 15
Northampton	8848	64026	40555	4722	30798	32842	6947	50193	.. 16
Pitsford	71	277	..	47	75	10	..	317	.. 17
West Haddon	179	1273	..	110	291	461	..	891	33 18
Yardley Hastings	255	2342	526	295	922	996	635	936	24 19
District Total for 1917	15167	155482	52204	10751	57569	67495	23726	85340	919
Totals, previous year (1916)	13780	130245	46184	12627	56180	62064	29275	68750	1370
No. 2—WELLINGBOROUGH AND KETTERING DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib Societies—									
Burton Latimer	1017	22865	1217	1050	3086	3650	7486	13291	20 1
Desborough	1850	67873	40345	4401	19549	25280	67191	6482	1639 2
Finedon	884	14710	2350	1477	1817	2085	2699	12819	7 3
Higham Ferrers	595	5536	916	665	2508	1952	..	4122	.. 4
Irchester	421	6454	2446	271	3747	4111	1440	870	.. 5
Irthlingborough	721	6362	1606	320	3825	3073	..	3466	155 6
Kettering	8828	276003	12060	8154	30724	33650	109500	140851	665 7
Market Harborough	3292	30835	3532	1121	12666	17966	..	8693	513 8
Raunds Distributive	1475	25555	2875	724	12000	9363	1755	9637	14 9
Ringstead Distributive	197	1250	355	102	436	593	..	1030	38 10
Rothwell	1050	20776	3403	520	2791	6096	4280	13672	166 11
Rushden	2570	32222	8080	1565	14572	17423	1625	14464	376 12
Thrapston	523	4257	1546	629	2043	2240	..	2079	107 13
Walgrave Industrial	157	1094	88	192	429	375	..	793	.. 14
Wellingborough Midland	3516	55188	13741	5751	11402	9154	7625	54790	1034 15
Wollaston	797	18941	4173	454	2452	2782	4134	16169	.. 16
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	27803	589030	99738	27306	124107	140608	207726	304038	4734

* No recent information available.

SECTION.

CAMBRIDGE, DERBY, LEICESTER, LINCOLN, NORTHAMPTON, NOTTINGHAM,
for 1917, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to
the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	2	1	182	69	7431	974	161	2 7½	..	5	....
2	2	1	118	26	5121	631	25	2 4	..	..	....
3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	1	..	85	..	3004	346	34	2 6½	..	3	0 12 11
5	31	6	1049	371	41640	3339	738	1 4½	47	29	6 0 6
6	1	..	84	..	1973	112	13	1 9	..	13	0 9 6
7	10	5	1010	350	27364	2428	852	1 6	..	22	4 15 10
8	1	..	53	..	2128	183	8	2 3	..	..	....
9	2	1	126	48	3992	315	30	1 9	..	..	....
10	1	1	236	53	6787	633	73	2 3	..	4	0 18 8
11	3	..	231	..	4765	433	25	2 6	..	2	0 15 6
12	17	8	1094	261	26307	1570	407	1 1	..	14	3 7 0
13	3	..	333	..	5318	549	..	..	396	..	0 5 0
14	18	16	1528	717	39018	4807	1014	1 8½	40	31	5 8 0
15	3	1	339	98	11928	671	138	1 5	..	..	1 16 8
16	140	25	9772	2515	226121	19980	2629	1 7	146	107	42 13 6
17	1	..	64	..	2235	206	12	1 10	..	..	0 7 0
18	4	..	193	..	4656	361	57	1 6½	..	..	0 17 6
19	3	2	219	68	6619	560	111	1 7	..	2	1 5 5
243		67	17616	4516	426447	38108	6327	..	47	621	69 13 0
213		72	15264	3903	356813	36954	5370	..	43	496	60 16 3
1	15	6	1155	254	29756	3159	826	1 8	..	10	4 15 3
2	40	115	2450	8771	76197	9978	2475	1 11½	..	42	9 4 4
3	10	6	867	320	27398	2775	642	1 10	..	19	4 4 2
4	7	3	497	198	16256	2025	269	2 0	76	5	2 10 0
5	4	4	466	156	23174	2133	260	1 9	..	7	4 9 6
6	6	7	1163	275	27574	2707	285	1 10	..	7	3 8 2
7	112	43	9149	3093	266753	34883	9971	2 0	470	220	45 0 0
8	67	16	4154	1045	85939	6868	1313	1 4	..	104	52 17 10
9	24	24	1951	1571	49084	3392	947	1 2	..	52	7 2 4
10	2	1	104	65	6413	555	55	1 9	..	4	0 19 9
11	16	6	1097	250	28002	3155	862	1 9½	..	17	5 7 9
12	44	17	3714	1067	85189	8633	1285	1 8½	..	79	12 16 4
13	9	2	554	144	14069	1562	178	2 0	..	18	2 2 11
14	2	2	142	101	6070	561	52	1 11	..	2	....
15	67	23	4177	1926	132760	14070	2176	1 10	..	143	17 9 8
16	13	7	1015	355	29205	3516	818	1 11	..	25	3 13 6
438		282	32745	19591	903839	100062	22414	..	546	722	140 18 8

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Property. All other Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
WELLINGBOROUGH AND KETTERING DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Productive Societies:—								
*Avalon (Rothwell Boot and Shoe) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Crompton Boot Manufac. (Desborough)	270	4941	2698	7865	7287	3038	1108	5806
Finedon Boot and Shoe ..	30	5296	1373	6201	8176	..	2357	6406
Higham Ferrers Boot & Shoe	219	6660	4006	3496	8720	2407	1051	3762
Kettering Boot and Shoe ..	658	10602	11751	6811	23437	2974	7586	21
„ Clothing	1519	27287	22899	23906	65327	16900	276	45904
„ Corset Manufacturers	409	14660	..	2882	17804	3500	900	2994
„ Union Boot & Shoe	307	3309	4504	1629	8031	1060	10	2958
Northamptonshire Productive (Wollaston)	224	3419	5267	4728	9015	1150	3586	3566
Pioneer Boot (North'mp'n)	66	1599	625	510	1800	716	838	26
Ringshead Unity	26	3612	351	5	10102	487	40	4844
St. Crispin Product. (Raunds)	63	6962	8813	5079	14239	1000	2069	12022
Wellingboro' Ideal Cloth'rs	1300	25888	10330	34069	56117	24572	5724	14348
„ Midland Boot	319	7852	3131	5633	15848	1315	7022	6488
Produc. Socs. Total for 1917	5410	121997	75778	102704	246103	59119	576	109098
District Total for 1917	33213	711927	175516	130160	370210	199812	208302	113882
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	26226	532695	106987	25053	110805	135798	252738	253312
† Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	5340	121895	74513	93073	215497	64648	874	54283
† District Total for previous year (1916)	31566	654500	181500	118126	326302	200446	220612	307595
No. 8—LEICESTER DISTRICT—								
Retail Distrib. Societies—								
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	559	1944	1063	223	2001	1450	194	226
Barrow-on-Soar	220	708	71	..	902	17	260	54
Barwell	2010	20679	2681	1532	8958	5912	7947	17785
Broughton Astley	161	1462	62	562	477	..	613	..
Burbage	697	8703	370	230	3608	3060	1378	2620
Coalville	6202	68944	23202	5693	39740	28784	2688	37112
Cosby	214	1874	1340	205	733	651	832	1673
Croft	138	926	532	60	592	19	1050	34
Enderby	1171	23064	2881	2405	6835	14336	4733	6434
Fleckney	432	2092	661	302	1464	736	600	1013
Glenfield	250	3392	1206	231	1115	3065	1085	..
Great Glen	105	481	683	50	351	910	78	12
Great Wigston	2115	51315	3716	2405	9156	17352	12331	22410
Groby	150	2331	51	209	507	..	2549	..
Hathern	282	5423	1879	117	2162	1536	2992	1299
Hinckley	3740	73759	4089	3741	8826	4248	49369	30140
Huncote	170	3376	526	223	609	2221	124	1402
Kirby Muxloe	152	1239	183	97	584	589	563	..
Leicester	28501	390237	69694	12440	94191	188034	53922	174827
Loughborough Industrial, Wkg. Men's	531	1281	1508	37	1565	324	927	698
Markfield	429	1306	1176	..	1357	1242	682	..
Melton Mowbray	189	1081	106	96	773	336	248	304
Mount Sorrel	2402	14110	6762	683	12232	8258	2669	1255
Moudby	480	3836	20	653	2694	1159	1446	61
Oadby	343	3696	499	106	334	2027	2179	..
*Quorn don .....	..	620	1457	188	857	996	234	213
Ratby	263	987	..	145	835	140	307	100
Rothley	135	426	300	..	340	506	231	..
Sapeote	1271	31149	5825	302	5630	7046	5499	19088
Shepshed .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	547

* No recent information available.

† Including Avalon (Rothwell Boot and Shoe) Productive Society.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Charita- ble Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
17	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0
18	..	88	..	7013	50742	835	220	..	..	49	..	2 0 0
19	..	90	..	8782	61393	7271	256	..	870	..	88	1 0 0
20	..	85	..	7268	46602	1609	317	0 6	164	..	8	1 12 0
21	..	208	..	19948	121624	5988	521	0 7 1	1483	128	87	6 0 0
22	5	936	2970	49078	222652	18168	1272	0 10 1	4108	250	305	8 10 0
23	2	217	1535	10762	55856	3615	604	0 6	982	100	114	3 0 0
24	2	59	211	5145	37108	1960	149	0 10 1	458	45	156	2 6 0
25	..	73	..	7817	53064	4956	161	0 8 1	532	..	36	1 10 0
26	..	23	..	1891	7692	323	81	0 4	75	..	1	0 12 6
27	..	103	..	8385	38740	690	349	..	..	..	24	0 10 0
28	..	130	..	12114	89357	16967	340	..	4498	..	..	2 2 0
29	..	831	..	44611	209565	11440	1269	0 0	3856	375	243	6 7 6
30	..	139	..	12024	87266	7643	350	1 0	1163	218	59	1 5 0
	9	2982	4716	194838	1081661	81115	5907	..	1202	1165	1121	38 5 0
	447	3264	37461	214429	1985500	181177	28321	..	18748	1887	1880	179 3 8
	408	271	30268	17893	783893	95202	20102	..	755	659	956	131 15 9
	12	3005	3360	200507	1044707	85973	5392	..	17058	1004	1088	37 19 10
	420	3276	33628	218400	1828600	181175	25494	..	17813	1663	2044	169 15 7
1	18	4	667	356	17302	614	85	0 9	..	9	1	3 7 6
2	3	..	245	..	5232	508	1	1 6	..	..	2	1 0 2
3	31	5	2322	465	66349	7937	1104	2 1	..	104	26	9 10 1
4	4	..	145	..	3569	406	62	2 0	..	..	1	0 15 3
5	13	6	824	190	23136	2132	342	2 1 1	..	..	12	3 1 3
6	170	50	10264	5812	306611	26480	3250	1 6 1	..	146	140	30 12 0
7	1	..	273	..	7500	879	90	2 1 1	..	..	4	1 0 0
8	1	1	239	84	5764	388	42	1 4 1	..	..	1	0 14 7
9	18	8	1283	759	42905	6402	885	2 1 1	16	..	38	5 14 5
10	6	2	470	140	13578	1135	91	1 6	..	..	3	2 4 10
11	3	2	257	135	7435	664	131	1 7	..	..	6	1 5 4
12	2	2	148	121	3773	235	24	1 9	..	..	1	..
13	37	11	3074	1447	78886	6081	2326	0 11 1	..	41	41	10 10 4
14	3	..	333	..	6519	859	104	2 8 1	..	..	6	0 15 6
15	5	4	393	308	12780	917	203	1 6	..	..	18	1 8 5
16	51	13	3820	1095	105531	14938	2636	2 4	..	..	39	17 10 8
17	3	..	260	..	4630	453	131	1 6	..	3	..	0 17 0
18	3	..	195	..	4491	389	56	1 7	..	..	..	0 14 1
19	676	159	41948	11797	1001554	69699	14650	1 2 1	1500	745	186	139 5 0
20	4	1	277	182	8743	722	43	1 6	..	8	4	2 14 0
21	..	..	484	..	10441	1281	51	..	..	..	..	..
22	5	..	424	..	7440	529	49	1 5 1	..	..	1	0 10 0
23	54	7	2923	562	62531	1030	163	1 4	..	..	32	10 8 4
24	7	2	671	260	19335	2100	177	2 0	..	..	15	2 7 0
25	4	2	408	198	10423	883	163	1 6	..	..	4	1 15 5
26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
27	2	2	324	153	8693	707	27	1 6	..	..	..	1 4 7
28	4	2	301	148	9710	930	47	1 11	..	..	1	..
29	3	..	111	..	2690	201	19	0 9	..	..	1	..
30	20	7	1703	733	51995	4508	1234	1 6	..	78	..	6 10 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
LEICESTER DISTRICT— <i>Con.</i>										
Stoney Stanton (Hinckley)	362	2731	686	136	1287	1481		1190	31	
Whetstone	326	4367	..	182	1851	60	982	2318	32	
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	54344	737839	132667	33843	212651	297572	144806	334292	4661	
Productive Societies:—										
Excelsior Boot and Shoe (Sileby)	110	3252	4918	3456	11491	1742	..	1018	5356 33	
aGlenfield Boot and Shoe ..	257	3410	4227	1348	4450	1597	..	1168	2647 34	
Leicester Anchor B. & Shoe	572	7067	7539	4604	17416	5715	..	1851	5994 35	
„ Boot and Shoe ..	998	12581	13913	11023	31927	7123	..	8938	7841 36	
„ Carriage Build'rs	96	1347	2782	927	3365	2490	..	29	3729 37	
„ Printing	395	8940	9796	1423	10575	9362	..	3471	7431 28	
„ Self Help Boot & S.	224	3150	2125	2605	5822	2698	..	637	3890 39	
Morning Star Sundries (Leicester)	258	4044	1291	1130	2053	822	..	882	10945 40	
Sperope Boot and Shoe (Barwell)	272	4286	7629	2993	10027	2693	..	4033	4720 41	
Wigston Hosiers	445	13235	2637	4054	10749	5881	..	4568	5903 42	
Produc. Soc's. Total for 1917	3627	61312	56857	33564	108875	40123	..	26295	58456	
District Total for 1917	57971	799151	189524	67407	321526	337695	144806	360587	63117	
†Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	51072	670495	118720	33583	183513	278357	149835	299557	4028	
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	3419	54381	51430	23518	83072	41252	..	15486	37454	
†District Total for previous year (1916)	54491	724876	170150	57101	266585	319609	149835	315043	41482	
No. 4—COVENTRY DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Atherstone	787	8124	1380	696	3544	4158	1111	2419	255 1	
Blue Lias (Stockton)	119	283	..	..	509	12	..	132	62 2
*Broadwell New									3	
Coventry Perseverance	23806	312177	5161	21669	97216	63494	86334	107452	1002 4	
*Eathorpe and Marton									5	
aHarbury	339	3196	125	152	1698	778	515	783	.. 6	
Lockhurst Lane	3650	37243	1860	2942	16573	13405	11385	11307	56 7	
Long Itchington	215	1839	16	65	1760	102	..	517	160 8	
Nuneaton	8251	64843	16607	6158	31987	29390	11117	25311	1260 9	
dPailton	35	255	..	..	488	259	..	1160	136 10
*Paradise (Foleshill)									11	
Rugby	8129	85818	12226	4710	41403	37899	12426	20562	598 12	
*Sontham									13	
Stoneleigh	105	277	..	..	240	55	..	239	.. 14
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	45436	514055	87675	36392	195418	154552	122888	169882	3529	
Productive Societies:—										
aCoventry Builders	12	134	668	..	82	498	..	28	23 15	
Coventry Licensed Trade Supply	144	1537	994	2000	867	2097	..	1925	168 16	
aCoventry Watch Manu- facturing	51	1201	190	17	614	400	..	281	77 17	
Produc. Soc's. Total for 1917	207	2872	1762	2017	1563	2995	..	2234	268	
District Total for 1917	45643	516027	39437	38409	196981	157547	122888	172116	3797	

* No recent information available.

† Includes Quorndon.

d 1915 Figures.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
						Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital.	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.	Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.	£	£					£	Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
31	5	2	£ 364	£ 173	£ 10383	£ 723	£ 123	s. d. 1 0	£ ..	£ ..	£ 5	£ s. d. 1 11 5
32	2	..	454	..	13866	1444	163	1 10 1/2	..	..	4	....
	1158	202	75544	25118	1934085	156174	28475	..	1516	1134	592	257 7 2
33	..	79	..	7904	44580	3467	154	0 5 1/2	1001	163	..	0 12 0
34	..	74	..	6006	27415	1329	169	0 3 1/2	225	30	16	2 1 6
35	..	165	..	14183	52014	3314	337	..	..	50	..	4 10 0
36	..	220	..	20006	111058	11158	620	0 5	928	78	165	8 0 0
37	..	32	..	3513	18781	33	82	..	..	..	..	0 12 0
38	..	104	..	9657	39925	4077	437	0 7	646	180	63	2 8 0
39	..	67	..	6106	38278	1438	122	0 3 1/2	215	20	19	1 10 0
40	..	16	..	1473	88668	2650	224	..	63	25	25	0 13 3
41	..	76	..	7089	49250	4673	561	0 6	645	30	170	1 11 6
42	..	72	..	5225	63737	5172	601	0 3 1/2	353	72	29	1 15 0
	..	915	..	81165	534606	37911	3307	..	4166	648	487	23 13 3
	1158	1207	75544	100283	2468691	194085	31782	..	5682	1872	1079	281 0 5
	1076	311	68625	23507	1630925	186643	26122	..	2206	1156	561	237 15 3
	..	945	..	72542	363194	22171	3078	..	3929	450	380	24 3 0
	1076	1256	68625	96049	1994119	208814	29200	..	6135	1606	941	261 18 3
1	15	3	973	352	28720	2733	380	1 6	..	10	4	4 3 0
2	2	..	122	..	3305	241	11	2 0	..	..	..	0 12 6
3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	450	110	39026	11661	789121	77378	12267	1 8	..	2258	150	130 6 8
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	6	4	421	97	10520	888	143	1 6	..	..	4	2 0 7
7	56	6	4320	762	112812	13594	1708	1 11	..	290	..	15 12 6
8	3	2	266	73	8390	631	86	1 5	..	..	..	..
9	168	30	12327	5040	290643	22054	2992	1 4 1/2	..	300	107	40 4 3
10	2	1	77	91	2403	110	12	2 0	..	..	..	..
11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	208	58	15676	5206	300238	26846	3663	1 7	..	104	122	29 0 0
13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	2	1	205	33	5267	273	10	1 1	..	..	..	..
	912	215	73413	23316	1551719	144748	21272	..	..	2962	387	231 19 6
15	..	1	..	65	113	£10	..	..	..	..	..	....
16	2	6	324	599	4540	554	78	..	20	..	4	1 10 0
17	..	11	..	353	675	£21	..	..	..	..	1	0 12 0
	2	18	324	1017	5328	£554	78	..	20	..	5	2 2 0
	914	233	73737	24333	1557047	£145302	21350	..	20	2962	392	234 1 6

e Loss. ‡ Before deducting the loss of £31.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COVENTRY DISTRICT—Con.									
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	42844	513734	34676	38349	173055	161087	123786	190304	3831
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	220	3156	1744	1417	1393	3298	..	1983	276
† District Total for previous year (1916)	43064	516890	36420	39766	173448	164385	125786	192197	4107
No. 5—BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Alcester	4755	44676	5183	2868	28496	17570	551	13158	485
Bidford	794	11122	137	688	3494	1202	2693	5579	540
Birmingham Industrial . .	42381	400120	30929	21062	164548	23080	28025	111455	3411
Church Lench	58	156	15	105	197	34	..	199	46
Dudley	7104	11273	2590	3015	12562	8513	..	3102	340
Fenny Compton	332	2042	15	80	965	524	..	893	170
Halesowen and Hasbury . .	1906	16770	11370	..	10755	15220	2820	4245	981
Highley	229	3970	..	339	1683	1058	..	1151	22
Kidderminster	3558	57347	1795	4239	17561	11329	5094	37353	361
Soho (Smethwick)	9320	62075	6868	5580	40155	33723	..	16096	851
Stratford-on-Avon	786	2596	609	420	1541	2462	..	636	287
Ten Acres and Stirehley (Birmingham)	11693	167469	14189	9204	56776	66270	3383	100943	284
Warwick	522	1559	585	83	750	1115	..	1671	361
Worcester	6818	52934	5851	4655	21182	29793	2312	19180	461
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	90256	833209	89145	52938	360665	411902	44827	314631	8609
Special Society—									
Planet Mutual Insurance . .	60	971	..	423	20	..	858	730	..
Productive Societies:—									
Alcester Needle Makers . .	173	1832	1235	..	1478	494	..	465	585
Birmingham Printers . . .	218	11348	1780	630	2111	7956	..	3856	3464
Midland Woodworkers . . .	48	488	124	20	620	76	..	81	324
Produc. Soc. Total for 1917	439	13668	3139	650	4209	8526	..	4402	4373
District Total for 1917	90755	847848	83284	54011	364894	420428	45685	312763	12073
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	87640	724138	64697	56401	314101	381346	35238	277119	10767
Special Society Total for previous year (1916)	60	916	..	415	36	..	539	812	..
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	410	11011	2945	538	2425	7994	..	1942	3129
District Total for previous year (1916)	88110	736065	67642	57354	316562	389340	35777	279873	13866
No. 6—STAFFORD DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bridgnorth	310	1388	681	262	920	1210	473	272	101
Burton-on-Trent	11165	111085	9071	6111	39512	40670	3117	63573	4
Cannock	4400	42834	5233	1544	13902	12191	600	26441	1500
Hollington	102	954	..	167	109	107	317	455	3
Mayfield	247	1782	41	344	1015	118	..	1429	5
Rugeley	1827	18599	1558	1718	9819	6141	364	6086	864
Stafford	3387	29774	819	2805	12642	13647	732	10598	123
Stone	1021	12790	520	1034	3750	7037	1224	3501	600
Tamworth	5800	79627	4848	4323	32792	53729	2103	22915	9
Tipton	1276	7790	115	1716	8631	2125	..	2496	608
Walsall	14741	114475	8782	2870	41567	56468	4005	42962	11
Wednesbury (New)	1545	10862	1888	219	8563	4952	645	1837	796
Wheaton Aston	75	615	..	450	244	350	..	773	12
Wolverhampton	6897	51758	1214	868	20344	15544	3340	18342	1404
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	52793	484315	34779	24431	183917	214289	17026	201204	6393

† Includes Broadwell New, Eathorpe and Marton, Paradise, and Southam Distributive Societies.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
	876	249	40233	18807	1137861	148206	17016	..	..	1961	330	208 18 9
	3	22	324	1015	5678	664	76	..	20	..	4	2 12 0	
	879	271	49557	19822	1143539	148870	17092	..	20	1961	334	211 10 0	
1	135	10	10560	1464	183213	12665	1963	1 1	..	..	125	22 16 7
2	13	2	827	186	22465	1293	394	0 10 1	..	..	10	3 19 1
3	1028	122	77372	13127	1210673	110730	17950	1 5 1/2	2234	1203	563	219 1 7	
4	1	..	101	..	2780	200	6	2 0	..	..	..	..
5	84	13	4803	1624	124995	9873	399	1 6	..	45	15	15 0 0	
6	5	3	255	60	9474	505	78	1 1 1/2	..	..	8	1 11 3
7	32	9	2224	789	54096	1906	831	1 0	..	31	25	9 18 0	
8	4	2	271	143	10632	1312	148	1 11 1/2	..	..	17	1 1 0
9	60	19	3892	1566	120123	13229	2545	1 9	..	2	50	17 6 8	
10	175	19	13587	3194	268698	23886	2687	1 6 1/2	556	335	..	45 7 6	
11	7	5	495	340	14912	1072	113	1 6	..	..	..	....
12	248	33	19961	3658	413590	43509	7462	1 8	..	821	136	56 16 8	
13	7	2	454	144	10245	448	68	1 0	..	3	..	2 5 10	
14	149	24	8618	2649	185171	17029	1951	1 5	20	355	97	33 1 8	
	1948	263	143420	28944	2631067	237657	36595	..	2860	2795	1046	428 5 10	
	..	..	285	..	694	213	46	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
15	..	13	..	714	5550	519	..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0
16	..	63	..	5847	17608	2667	494	0 10	242	20	22	1 5 0	
17	..	6	..	747	1934	261	12	0 6	..	..	..	0 5 0
	..	87	..	7308	25092	3447	506	..	242	20	22	3 0 0	
	1948	350	143705	36252	2656853	241317	37147	..	3102	2815	1068	431 15 10	
	1786	263	116235	23335	2208406	229009	29941	..	2374	2744	917	334 15 0	
	..	..	357	..	664	59	39	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
	..	80	..	5701	16449	1037	425	..	122	20	15	3 0 0	
	1786	343	116592	29036	2225519	230105	30405	..	2496	2764	932	338 5 0	
1	5	2	307	151	7642	709	60	1 7 1/2	..	..	3	1 13 4
2	239	68	19280	5160	393751	39037	5233	1 6 1/2	387	389	239	55 17 3	
3	78	22	5730	1941	150187	10822	2020	1 6	..	120	46	22 2 8	
4	1	..	102	..	2562	86	11	2 0	..	..	..	0 10 8
5	14	1	407	90	9846	1046	73	1 10 1/2	38	25	17	1 5 2	
6	42	8	2404	657	58879	4786	848	1 8	..	..	22	8 14 4
7	49	13	3376	1416	89817	7550	1303	1 5	..	66	30	15 13 4	
8	13	3	989	339	28233	800	150	1 6	..	25	8	..	
9	142	49	8914	3896	200708	16296	3534	1 2 1/2	232	171	59	28 0 0	
10	18	3	1139	315	43895	5124	349	2 0	..	..	14	5 9 6
11	241	43	19224	3669	332237	28255	5279	1 3	618	200	164	70 2 2	
12	25	7	1793	287	34045	2764	484	1 4 1/2	..	..	..	7 16 0
13	1	..	90	..	2541	289	25	3 0	2	..	..	..
14	106	37	6512	4171	155174	11213	2199	1 2 1/2	183	..	53	32 11 2	
	974	256	70267	22092	1509517	128867	21568	..	1460	996	655	249 15 7	

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
STAFFORD DISTRICT—Con.									
Productive Society:— Walsall Locks & Cart Gear	254	8884	3556	7468	11652	5072	324	5747	15
District Total for 1917	53017	493197	38335	31899	195569	219361	17350	206951	15979
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	48607	468232	34183	26763	165011	185402	18689	226942	8923
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	220	8209	3398	6747	10796	5359	333	573	8808
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	48827	476441	37581	33510	175807	190761	19022	227515	17726
No. 7—DERBY DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bolsover	1960	23299	2763	192	12921	10501	451	5175	1
Brassington	84	118	..	2	297	25	..	103	76
Codnor Park and Ironville.	1040	23950	2445	367	6505	1718	4952	14798	3
Derby	32192	392036	10241	23681	116640	185997	90192	86423	4
Ilkeston	5602	60943	3619	2258	29786	23929	4870	12751	5
Langley Mill and Aldercar	6444	108490	16528	2635	43289	46482	25585	25394	6
Lea and Holloway	470	2976	751	168	969	2070	..	637	7
Long Eaton	11745	209953	27940	8434	76553	77884	41349	75785	8
Milford (Hopping Hill).	354	1676	143	..	1019	165	..	530	9
Pinxton	1016	33413	..	1273	7987	3819	8416	16405	10
Ripley	13157	326415	6973	17119	90804	63475	49529	178626	11
Tibshelf	1472	21845	1740	1875	13088	4468	1057	9534	12
Wirksworth	642	2703	25	817	2936	327	179	1673	13
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	76178	1207817	73168	58821	402791	420860	223580	427829	15619
Productive Societies:— Derby Printers	72	1165	1836	798	403	2767	..	587	14
Long Eaton Printers	27	526	..	83	343	117	..	294	15
Produc. Socs. Total for 1917	99	1691	1836	881	746	2884	..	881	467
District Total for 1917	76277	1209508	75004	59702	403537	423744	223580	428710	16086
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	72124	1152327	67835	4612	358396	409712	230421	409143	16609
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	100	1682	1859	815	639	3013	..	669	425
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	72224	1154009	69694	55427	359035	412725	230421	409812	17034
No. 8—NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Annesley Colliery	883	10380	..	899	4966	100	..	8551	1
Annesley Woodhouse	581	13388	1372	534	6125	865	4190	6676	2
Bulwell	2472	32227	9036	1423	14428	9946	6187	16118	3
*Calverton . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cinder Hill	2831	25278	5990	3068	15071	8772	2908	13428	5
Hucknall Torkard	4444	134050	19684	6366	16373	10228	27825	116451	6
Keyworth	259	1714	176	65	800	831	..	213	7
Kirkby-in-Ashfield	2792	54234	2794	997	28063	13586	8228	13778	8
Langwith	785	11618	722	1050	8654	1082	..	5420	9
Lowdham	414	4278	148	366	1248	2024	338	1465	10
Mansfield and Sutton	13353	218279	7823	8741	74459	34688	48183	101311	11
Netherfield	3003	24073	2009	614	18086	8206	2490	2437	12
Nottingham	18577	226040	3461	10024	83964	108047	7915	65702	13
Pleasley and Pleasley Hill.	1806	26815	6036	2728	11237	7199	1680	18499	14

* No recent information available.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Inter- est on Share Capital	Aver- age Divid- end per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.			
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.			
15	..	287	..	22607	57444	4321	639	..	2625	127	100	1	10	0
	974	543	70267	44759	1566961	133188	22207	..	4085	1123	755	251	5	7
	979	224	62918	18829	1310852	138982	20457	..	1408	1074	625	223	6	2
	..	337	..	20144	50974	5124	589	..	1900	75	50	1	10	0
	979	561	62918	38973	1361826	144106	21046	..	3308	1149	675	224	16	2
1	45	4	2923	253	84107	6391	1054	1	3½	..	48	7	16	4
2	4	..	115	..	3330	140	2	2	0	..	1	0	6	6
3	28	6	1886	275	55624	4730	1073	1	4½	..	31	4	16	10
4	784	315	63770	25740	1204908	136612	15044	1	10½	..	6936	162	18	0
5	146	29	9165	2248	223301	14992	2838	1	2½	..	83	28	0	0
6	191	57	14244	5746	379363	22605	4780	1	3	522	95	32	5	6
7	5	..	356	..	7581	216	33	1	3	..	3	2	7	1
8	335	71	22349	7817	515915	51139	8819	1	8	509	573	57	14	7
9	8	1	411	55	13575	724	39	1	11	..	1	1	18	9
10	27	..	1686	..	50075	8740	1495	2	7½	..	15	5	2	3
11	268	58	17654	3843	531618	71722	14625	2	1	..	760	187	63	9
12	44	6	2949	414	81329	8801	930	2	1	..	107	33	7	6
13	10	1	509	95	20294	2703	120	2	5½	..	4	3	2	1
	1895	548	138017	46486	3171110	329515	50861	..	1031	3417	7437	377	4	5
14	..	10	..	793	3152	315	57	0	10	27	8	9	0	15
15	..	4	..	486	1089	162	53	1	3	35	3	4	0	5
	..	14	..	1279	4241	477	110	..	62	11	13	1	0	0
	1895	562	138017	47765	3175351	32992	50971	..	1093	3428	7450	378	4	5
	1897	555	116185	42062	2656045	349936	46801	..	1181	3290	5870	357	17	10
	..	15	..	1214	3747	391	82	..	66	12	13	1	0	0
	1897	570	116185	43276	2659792	350327	46883	..	1247	3302	5883	358	17	10
1	15	1	1167	35	44249	6411	447	2	8	..	10	4	9	7
2	13	1	924	100	35096	3840	624	2	0	36	8	2	11	0
3	70	13	4493	1230	115047	7690	1551	1	1½	..	49	12	9	2
4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	58	19	4103	2250	111386	12431	994	2	3	..	93	77	13	13
6	87	50	7349	4162	174033	19443	4800	1	6½	..	268	197	21	16
7	4	2	290	149	10211	525	77	1	0	..	1	1	6	0
8	81	24	6161	1708	144866	12975	2529	1	4	159	141	51	13	12
9	17	..	1488	..	37698	5680	508	2	9	..	24	3	9	3
10	5	2	354	120	9011	713	188	1	0	..	3	2	2	5
11	302	44	18848	3293	507426	42621	9682	1	4½	..	255	156	63	3
12	70	12	4408	1202	106575	7777	1155	1	3	..	22	14	12	6
13	477	104	27634	9283	536489	52763	10284	1	6½	2425	155	295	87	18
14	40	4	2532	220	70295	7381	1171	1	7½	..	30	37	8	6

NAME OF SOCIETY	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, incl. overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT—Con.									
*Pleasley Works									15
Radcliffe-on-Trent	315	2613	2274	..	2079	2016	1188	198	482
Ruddington	681	13880	1907	662	3935	10327	..	2084	146
Selston	775	18749	2814	444	8448	5343	2188	7818	398
Southwell	536	3823	457	212	2526	1775	..	1013	6
Stanton Hill	1617	21058	4586	1843	8427	5865	6500	9270	917
Stapleford and Sandiacre ..	2319	42617	3902	1548	15794	12794	9624	16324	448
Warsop Vale	298	5201	..	423	3137	626	1984	802	..
Woodborough	94	572	203	404	555	371	252	221	..
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	59338	891787	75394	4241	329295	245291	130789	408679	11637
Productive Societies:—									
Codnor Park and Selston Baking	2	800	..	100	198	501	..	279	..
Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers	301	8263	12253	3907	15659	4238	..	3391	14581
Nottingham Printers	110	751	416	244	251	382	..	723	137
Produc. Soc's. Total for 1917	413	9814	12669	4251	16108	5121	..	4393	14718
District Total for 1917	59751	901601	88063	46662	345403	250412	130789	113072	26385
†Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	54691	830135	75973	49275	284964	243462	143129	391782	13894
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	426	9000	10911	2245	17676	5548	..	2382	6134
†District Total for previous year (1916)	55117	848135	86884	15520	302640	249010	143129	394164	19968
No. 9—LINCOLN DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Boston	2475	11822	8017	1405	8661	9988	798	2516	1316
Gainsborough	5029	88512	6645	4006	40032	21403	15793	31575	748
Grantham	3317	29276	2537	2550	10786	16035	2976	10347	168
Great Grimsby	10350	62497	27595	4605	33899	17177	32243	16883	2582
Huntingdon	691	6000	2252	731	2229	1737	300	5593	188
Lincoln	18127	334136	148540	25285	94293	146237	31256	173128	6451
Newark	2525	18793	1614	1389	4439	6787	1525	10552	104
Peterborough	19413	208545	11986	15327	76210	72163	16961	99694	1394
Retford	1689	17959	1480	1050	5524	6980	1705	7458	1008
St. Ives (Hunts.)	789	3289	2337	478	2652	2417	..	1183	206
αSaxby	100	610	1	270	455	..	..	749	226
Skegness	269	796	697	..	569	1093	..	352	121
αSpalding	1252	6777	3548	283	4021	5762	..	1322	376
αWalmgate	89	190	11	143	172	142	..	157	20
αWisbech Phoenix	530	1524	1171	426	1821	616	276	467	359
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	36645	791326	218431	58008	290833	307637	203838	361936	15267
Productive Society:—									
Lincoln Land and Building	620	5370	47114	3949	392	514	53509	2146	290
District Total for 1917	37265	796696	265545	31937	291225	308181	257347	364082	15537
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	1911	734460	206094	53289	264069	320820	207103	295214	15565
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	621	5367	55279	3823	467	626	57995	5636	276
District Total for previous year (1916)	62532	739827	261373	57112	265136	321446	265098	300850	15841

* No recent information available.

† Includes Calverton and Pleasley Works Distributive Societies.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	£					£	£	£	£	£
15	..	4	..	357	159	7295	343	105	0 6	..	..	..	1 5 4
16	12	4	..	898	409	25702	2106	636	1 3	..	..	7	3 4 2
17	24	3	..	1544	264	39341	3433	818	1 7	..	41	57	3 16 2
18	14	4	..	687	297	15178	810	170	1 0	..	21	8	2 2 11
19	38	5	..	2812	121	75139	5305	1115	1 2	..	50	149	8 7 4
20	78	18	..	4526	1946	123768	12010	1935	1 6 1	..	118	63	13 8 6
21	7	..	..	598	..	18249	1866	224	1 6	21	20	4	1 8 7
22	2	..	..	124	..	2588	394	21	2 0	..	..	..	....
23	1418	312	91417	26957	2209634	206517	39034	..	2641	1300	1218	283	4 1
24	..	5	..	392	4485	168	40	0 4	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
25	..	134	..	5712	87042	5029	370	0 2 1	385	32	62	1 13 0	
26	..	7	..	699	1461	29	37	0 2	5	..	..	..	0 15 0
	..	146	..	6803	92988	5226	447	..	390	32	62	2 13 0	
	1418	458	91417	33760	2302622	211743	39581	..	3031	1332	1280	285 17 1	
	1169	492	73736	27229	1864587	219449	36039	..	2116	1210	1210	257 1 0	
	..	129	..	7321	66797	647	395	..	335	57	52	2 5 0	
	1169	531	73736	34550	1931294	220096	36434	..	2451	1267	1262	250 6 0	
1	50	13	..	2994	837	50588	2400	565	0 8	56	..	5	12 4 0
2	160	58	..	9082	4329	190098	15698	3979	1 4	..	124	30	24 15 0
3	64	26	..	4610	2241	113540	7915	1303	1 4 1	..	..	14	15 0 0
4	202	41	..	12923	3551	246363	17415	2713	1 2 1	..	156	474	46 10 1
5	10	5	..	684	120	16139	1635	330	1 10	..	..	5	3 10 2
6	526	200	..	32870	17039	716957	71197	14117	1 6 1	..	617	267	87 19 7
7	35	6	..	2241	591	49831	4937	850	1 7 1	..	..	8	11 2 0
8	468	117	..	26750	8747	525623	51707	9840	1 5 1	..	507	174	94 10 6
9	32	11	..	1786	747	51549	4563	836	1 5	..	..	..	8 8 0
10	15	3	..	810	221	13211	453	160	0 6	11	..	4	4 2 6
11	3	..	..	129	..	4262	385	27	3 0	..	..	4	0 12 5
12	3	1	..	279	105	4778	119	35	0 2 1	..	..	3	1 7 0
13	24	4	..	1272	212	20142	858	274	0 7 1	..	12	2	6 6 9
14	3	..	..	93	..	2275	123	8	1 3 1	..	..	..	....
15	9	2	..	181	149	15449	717	63	1 0	18	..	7	2 17 4
	1604	487	96923	38892	2030715	180122	35100	..	85	1416	997	319 5 4	
16	..	4	..	414	*3467	777	475	..	..	..	..	..	3 4 10
	1604	491	96923	39306	2034182	180899	35575	..	85	1416	997	322 10 2	
	1558	519	83896	35781	1689762	168796	31901	..	87	1328	848	299 13 3	
	..	8	..	766	1461	501	270	..	..	..	..	..	3 5 0
	1558	527	83896	36547	1691223	169207	32171	..	87	1328	848	302 18 3	

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	
No. 10—SHROPSHIRE & MID-WALES DISTRICT —		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies —									
Aberystwyth.....	403	900	668	33	789	965	..	292	98
Bourton.....	45	134	..	302	200	..	..	308	51
Chirk and District.....	684	7252	891	695	4598	4049	1241	673	47
Ellesmere.....	210	1051	..	120	356	501	..	201	175
Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale	1076	10013	5	603	4845	2974	516	3477	828
Newtown.....	1297	14256	769	1275	4601	3684	1096	7764	954
Oakengates.....	2782	20369	763	2041	9750	5063	..	10053	659
Oswestry.....	1279	8344	1086	190	5174	3772	782	1193	62
Prees.....	389	1686	857	255	2719	..	407	565	418
St Martin's.....	190	1384	133	255	773	714	..	186	262
Shrewsbury.....	4510	25781	2555	1743	12800	12518	3587	4875	747
Tibberton.....	34	68	..	..	238	5	..	35	..
Welshpool.....	324	2377	..	165	1258	176	..	1428	183
Whitchurch.....	880	3728	1403	154	2701	2888	..	676	1632
District Total for 1917	14094	97343	9135	7924	50862	37309	7632	31816	6107
Totals, previous year (1916)	13290	93241	11666	7153	46813	39701	8072	32132	5861

No. of Employers on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	5	2	307	115	5291	237	30	1 4	..	5	1 19 7
2	1	1	48	26	1581	93	6	1 0	10	..	0 4 10
3	21	7	1305	509	32290	2960	324	1 7½	..	..	3 10 0
4	2	..	188	..	5664	342	42	1 10	..	..	1 1 0
5	24	4	1286	329	27486	1797	475	0 10	..	22	1 5 8 2
6	21	5	1085	463	34554	4411	606	2 3	..	49	6 9 8
7	67	12	3359	1237	92170	8350	971	1 7	..	30	13 17 4
8	26	5	1484	420	30494	2535	367	1 6	..	22	6 2 8
9	6	4	350	285	9410	460	77	1 2	..	..	1 15 0
10	4	3	338	232	9617	731	58	2 0½	..	..	0 17 9
11	79	16	4857	1500	101929	10131	1120	1 8	118	120	21 10 0
12	1	..	56	..	1801	142	3	2 6	..	..	0 4 0
13	6	1	392	96	11183	957	79	1 7	..	18	1 16 2
14	14	3	872	203	37226	934	90	1 9	..	..	4 3 4
277		63	16017	5424	400696	133848	4258	..	128	266	68 19 6
268		67	14299	4797	336578	32363	3963	..	118	275	63 10 5

e Loss. † Before deducting the loss of £237.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	House Property.	All other Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
No. 1—NORTHAMPTON AND EARLS BARTON ..	19	15167	£ 15482	£ 52204	£ 10751	£ 57569	£ 67495	£ 28726	£ 85340	£ 919	1
„ 2—WELLINBORO' AND KETTERING	30	33213	£ 711927	£ 175516	£ 130100	£ 570210	£ 199812	£ 208302	£ 340169	£ 113832	2
„ 3—LEICESTER	42	57971	£ 799151	£ 189524	£ 67407	£ 321526	£ 337695	£ 144806	£ 360587	£ 63 17	3
„ 4—COVENTRY	17	45643	£ 516927	£ 39437	£ 38409	£ 196981	£ 157547	£ 127888	£ 172116	£ 3797	4
„ 5—BIRMINGHAM	18	90775	£ 847848	£ 83284	£ 54011	£ 364894	£ 420458	£ 45685	£ 319763	£ 12973	5
„ 6—STAFFORD	15	53047	£ 493197	£ 38335	£ 31899	£ 195569	£ 219361	£ 17350	£ 206951	£ 15979	6
„ 7—DERBY	15	76277	£ 1209508	£ 75004	£ 59702	£ 403537	£ 423744	£ 223580	£ 428710	£ 16086	7
„ 8—NOTTINGHAM	26	59751	£ 901601	£ 88063	£ 46662	£ 345403	£ 250412	£ 130789	£ 413072	£ 26385	8
„ 9—LINCOLN	16	67265	£ 796696	£ 265545	£ 61957	£ 291225	£ 308181	£ 257347	£ 364082	£ 15557	9
„ 10—SHROPSHIRE AND MID WALES	14	14094	£ 97348	£ 9135	£ 7924	£ 50862	£ 37309	£ 7632	£ 31816	£ 6107	10
Totals, 1917	212	513183	£ 6529680	£ 1016047	£ 508822	£ 2597776	£ 2421984	£ 1187105	£ 2722606	£ 274752	
Totals, 1916	213	483001	£ 6080229	£ 969094	£ 483696	£ 2290408	£ 2349487	£ 1242027	£ 2527981	£ 208133	
Increase .....	..	30182	£ 449451	£ 46953	£ 25126	£ 307368	£ 72497	..	£ 194675	£ 66619	
Decrease	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	£ 54922	..	..

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c.,

Retail Distrib. Societies ..	174	502054	£ 6303101	£ 813336	£ 352915	£ 220810	£ 2297600	£ 1131839	£ 2639647	£ 77 96	
Productive Societies	37	11069	£ 225608	£ 202711	£ 155434	£ 3-9648	£ 124384	£ 54409	£ 82229	£ 197256	
Special Society	1	60	£ 971	..	£ 423	£ 20	..	£ 858	£ 730	..	
Total for Section for 1917	212	513183	£ 6529680	£ 1016047	£ 508822	£ 2597776	£ 2421984	£ 1187105	£ 2722606	£ 274752	

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c., of
given for purposes of comparison. See also Introduction to

Retail Distrib. Socs. (1916)	174	472185	£ 5864702	£ 767015	£ 351105	£ 1958407	£ 2217749	£ 118-286	£ 2444255	£ 86700	
Productive Societies ..	38	10756	£ 214611	£ 202079	£ 13217	£ 331965	£ 131738	£ 59202	£ 82864	£ 121433	
Special Society ..	1	60	£ 916	..	£ 415	£ 36	..	£ 539	£ 812	..	
Total for Section (1916) ..	213	483001	£ 6080229	£ 969094	£ 483696	£ 2290408	£ 2349487	£ 1242027	£ 2527981	£ 208133	

MIDLAND SECTION.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
								Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	243	67	17616	4516	426447	38108	6327	47	621	203	69 13 0
2	447	3264	37461	214429	1985500	181177	28921	18748	1887	1880	179 3 8
3	1158	1207	75544	106283	2468691	194085	31782	5682	1782	1079	281 0 5
4	914	283	73737	24333	1557047	145302	21350	20	2962	392	234 1 6
5	1948	350	143705	36252	2656853	241317	37147	3102	2815	1068	431 15 10
6	974	542	70267	44759	1566961	133188	22207	4085	1123	755	251 5 7
7	1895	562	138017	47765	3175351	329992	50971	1093	3428	7450	378 4 5
8	1418	458	91417	33760	2302622	211743	39481	3031	1332	1280	285 17 1
9	1604	491	96923	39306	2034182	150899	35575	85	1416	997	322 10 2
10	277	63	16017	5424	400696	33848	4258	128	266	115	68 19 6
	10878	7238	760704	556827	18574350	1689659	277419	36021	17692	15219	2502 11 2
	10245	7474	634700	525353	15529303	1622107	248058	33718	15811	13196	2251 14 6
	663	..	126034	31474	3045047	67552	29361	2303	1821	2023	250 16 8
	..	236	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

of various classes of Societies for Year 1917.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
10867	2785	755379	241336	16768829	1555618	265904	10314	15629	13409	2426	13 1
11	4453	5010	315491	1804827	133928	11469	25707	2003	1310	75	8 1
..	..	285	..	694	213	46	..	..	..	0	10 0
10878	7238	760704	556327	18574350	1689659	277419	36021	17632	15219	2502	11 2

various classes of Societies for previous Year (1916),

Statistics for tables showing increases of membership, &c.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
10230	2933	630659	216143	13975722	1505540	237712	10288	14193	11594	2175 9 8
15	4541	3684	309210	1552917	116508	10307	23430	1618	1602	75 14 10
..	..	357	..	664	59	39	..	..	..	0 10 0
10245	7474	634700	525353	15529303	1622107	248058	33718	15811	13196	2251 14 6

NORTHERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
RIDING OF YORKSHIRE, for 1917, arranged

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- drafts from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	House Prop- erty.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No 1.—NORTH NORTHUM- BERLAND DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Amble	1970	30177	114	1048	8246	6788	545	17652	656
Ashington Equitable	925	10031	4369	1553	7325	3301	563	6084	50
" Industrial	6149	131778	537	5796	35771	26145	20352	65068	1135
Rebside	634	8621	309	333	3489	605	173	5388	510
Bedlington	2498	37746	26075	1876	15038	19468	6042	21262	5599
aBlyth—Central Industrial	2284	46022	..	2292	14156	10149	..	25356	1383
" Clive Industrial	401	2720	695	11	1229	2151	..	748	516
Broomhill	1160	22379	1695	1356	5751	4492	404	16845	150
Cambois	610	17230	658	125	4436	2686	3613	8948	675
Choppington	520	3809	..	252	2782	..	..	1347	488
Felton	112	625	92	112	1033	415	..	201	..
Guide Post	838	13335	432	946	5052	2531	869	6659	700
Hedgeley	801	9434	407	436	13650	1830	190	1900	570
Howick	460	6756	..	656	1317	7264	..	6632	184
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea ..	2117	50558	7210	1974	10538	13929	17533	19154	1525
New Delaval	1038	22203	30	188	4095	1390	7189	19830	1404
Otterburn	162	1297	432	32	788	831	..	1825	240
Pegswood	784	14459	3238	1395	4834	3094	834	11396	619
Radcliffe	415	6659	..	396	2356	360	..	5032	158
aSea Houses & N. S'land.	280	3411	26	75	1594	894	..	1280	117
aTogston Ter. & Bro'mh'l.	160	2652	..	141	1711	166	..	1071	110
aTweedside	2836	26258	67	3306	8479	6312	1100	14718	2381
Widdrington	414	2769	6219	684	2310	..	..	7849	246
District Total for 1917	27568	470929	52605	24983	156860	106801	60016	252755	19316
Totals, previous year (1916)	25410	457122	52710	24099	139490	116976	62291	244583	19103
No. 2.—SOUTH NORTHUM- BERLAND DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Backworth	930	27131	1144	1259	7356	5094	6170	12013	684
Coxlodge and Fawdon	720	11586	859	637	5334	3096	885	5580	693
Cramlington	4991	105891	45123	6473	28761	18627	9072	110777	2756
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	41418	554495	120221	13116	115913	149585	111634	406128	16087
North Shields	6060	19895	34856	633	15117	28110	985	12258	1976
St. Anthony's	861	8537	..	566	3662	468	..	5768	..
Seaton Delaval	2119	72674	2293	1742	18835	11776	8751	36582	4993
Seghill	384	8329	408	240	2321	673	..	6427	362
Shiremoor	1112	22474	822	813	4155	4550	2315	15010	547
Walker-on-Tyne	2457	24223	2660	2293	8545	5039	5213	13379	..
Wallaseid	7350	123751	11797	8262	26130	22609	18490	62004	525
Willington Q. & Howden	2187	24792	6210	1161	11022	12146	2773	7200	1824
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	70589	1003778	226393	37195	247154	261773	197288	693726	30474

SECTION.

NORTHUMBERLAND, CUMBERLAND, DURHAM, WESTMORLAND, and the NORTH in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	57	20	3600	1295	91244	10230	1317	2 0	..	..	20	10 4 0
2	27	26	2848	4427	57049	3424	482	1 2	..	..	26	5 0 1
3	206	72	15293	6041	326022	27349	6361	1 2	..	300	138	29 10 5	
4	17	5	1534	267	39264	3448	393	1 6	..	..	21	3 4 9
5	80	36	5811	2209	128519	13034	1795	1 8	..	..	733	12 6 4
6	73	34	3218	1601	101232	13605	2137	2 1½	..	..	62	11 17 11
7	8	..	559	..	8332	e272	114	0 9	..	..	..	1 19 10
8	35	18	2557	737	60794	7791	903	2 5	..	..	33	5 4 2
9	18	11	1697	721	48060	5205	815	1 9½	..	..	12	3 3 8
10	16	2	808	128	22447	2434	177	1 10½	..	..	2	2 11 8
11	2	..	131	..	5834	344	28	1 6	..	..	..	0 13 9
12	23	5	1680	192	49776	4675	625	1 8½	..	..	7	3 19 11
13	22	..	1160	..	89726	2750	411	1 10½	..	..	8	3 13 9
14	10	..	524	..	17561	2683	276	3 0	..	..	24	2 8 2
15	68	23	5067	1848	125187	11988	2337	1 7½	..	..	47	10 14 8
16	26	9	2486	598	59340	5714	1114	1 7½	..	..	12	5 5 0
17	4	..	228	..	6594	561	59	1 8	..	..	1	0 13 7
18	26	8	1954	402	63361	6307	675	2 0	..	13	18	3 18 1	
19	14	1	1075	60	24011	3077	300	2 3	..	..	12	2 3 3
20	5	..	363	..	9142	1321	124	2 7	..	..	3	1 9 2
21	6	..	387	..	7511	1035	117	2 6	..	..	3	0 16 2
22	48	25	2837	1856	91897	10344	1010	2 2½	..	..	44	14 17 10
23	10	3	811	26	27967	3253	142	2 3½	..	..	8	....
801			298	56628	22408	1460870	†140572	21802	313	1234	135 16 2
803			330	51363	19590	1801015	160574	20035	..	75	314	1014	128 8 1
1	32	7	3103	438	77513	10890	1265	2 4½	..	..	35	4 14 8
2	21	..	1932	..	54124	5050	539	1 5½	..	..	28	3 13 6
3	147	53	13883	5050	326645	39686	5142	1 11	..	..	98	25 2 10
4	1100	253	73491	14508	1599410	178272	25568	1 8	..	79	338	187 12 0	
5	130	17	7136	1658	165806	12371	825	1 4½	..	131	15	25 16 4	
6	21	..	1634	..	35904	3908	385	1 10½	..	..	6	4 4 7
7	77	41	8074	1995	156472	16551	3513	1 9½	..	..	52	10 18 6
8	12	..	663	..	24401	3384	394	2 3	..	..	17	1 16 0
9	31	5	2035	334	76695	11739	1098	2 6	..	..	40	5 12 6
10	65	11	3950	760	100840	11541	938	1 10½	..	..	28	11 11 7
11	186	55	11868	4294	297880	30666	5901	1 7½	..	240	818	35 14 2	
12	56	12	4356	865	103800	10116	1133	1 8½	..	50	36	10 14 2	
1878			454	132125	29902	3018990	334174	46701	521	1511	327 10 10

c Loss. † Before deducting the loss of £272.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Biddings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND DIST.—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Productive Societies:—									
Co-operative Laundries—									
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	58	17064	36109	2854	2480	20636	..	32639	1593
Newcastle-on-T.—House- hold Furnishing	121	6363	25710	718	4491	30010	..	79	3530
Produce, Socs. Total for 1917	179	23427	61819	3572	6971	50646	..	32718	5123
District Total for 1917	70768	1027205	288212	40767	254125	312419	197288	726444	35570
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	62668	975127	211686	30102	241355	277626	196761	641299	18934
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	178	22793	55189	3241	5740	52220	..	25445	5130
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	62846	997920	266875	33343	247905	329846	190761	606744	24064
No. 3—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Aspathria	2287	24563	67	1713	10471	6083	3237	9903	828
Broughton Moor	141	921	387	140	787	525	..	787	130
Carlisle	11546	155635	1486	10525	57158	61943	2121	54649	14962
Clearor Moor	7364	124587	158	5400	30005	19998	1613	74045	14368
Dalston	451	5610	..	216	2009	646	776	2577	312
Egremont	1765	47517	41	1049	11096	7597	4824	24909	3094
Houghton	84	812	525	63	298	765	100	175	162
Keswick	753	8981	103	701	3055	1659	2616	2370	800
Lazonby	528	7206	..	507	1763	760	378	4669	864
Longtown	548	5067	79	399	1858	326	1750	2026	132
Maryport	5026	42090	20910	4197	23338	9556	11238	31471	2958
Naworth Collieries	471	3453	..	2	1479	1180	955	764	768
Penrith	1758	21556	913	1342	7400	6568	2201	7832	3020
Tebay	251	1990	..	33	1566	667	111	922	117
Upperby	114	437	..	108	247	2	..	568	58
Warwick Bridge	150	1854	..	271	528	365	..	1726	427
Wigton	404	2749	4	267	1250	730	..	1959	17
Workington Beehive ...	3435	37077	1849	1394	15672	10805	2427	19382	2719
„ Industrial	2872	42205	..	1982	15140	13560	3388	18638	3692
District Total for 1917	39048	534310	26522	30309	185180	143825	37745	259372	40411
Totals, previous year (1916)	36980	515292	26135	32223	168846	151963	36534	254391	45447
No. 4—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib Societies—									
Allendale	686	7074	..	842	1970	819	455	5500	777
Alston	376	986	..	82	300	409	..	742	25
Anfield Plain	9107	214424	5322	11383	51923	25696	34907	134891	9873
Blaydon	14620	300986	12848	4634	27978	40602	101399	182501	2775
Burnopfield	2133	62304	3696	1900	9992	11652	17378	32110	1602
Coanwood	272	2219	..	250	797	392	..	1137	627
Consett	3228	67685	1816	2590	14959	15126	17737	25140	2243
Esh	769	18668	..	773	4909	4816	1685	10177	2316
Fourstones & Newbrough	441	3719	..	284	1700	83	36	3103	326
Greenhead	314	3495	83	285	2709	443	..	971	316
aHaltwhistle	1103	24428	..	747	5524	3876	588	15272	2300
Haydon Bridge	388	5171	..	41	2202	877	1215	1407	329

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
13	..	210	..	9067	28498	2727	849	1 0	..	..	7	0 15 0
14	..	70	..	6129	15866	2169	..	..	..	..	..	1 0 0
	..	280	..	15196	44364	†2727	849	..	..	..	7	1 15 0
	1878	734	132125	45098	3063354	†336901	47550	..	..	521	1518	329 5 10
	1994	371	112858	28223	2597316	348095	44970	..	..	416	1444	288 14 3
	..	299	..	16398	46063	2016	849	..	..	..	6	1 15 0
	1994	670	112858	44621	2643379	350111	45816	..	..	416	1450	290 9 3
1	41	18	2977	1215	82231	8085	1132	1 8	..	60	..	11 15 0
2	2	..	223	..	7419	1100	41	2 10 1	..	..	6	0 5 0
3	357	94	24059	6752	486520	54760	6001	2 0	..	143	162	53 3 0
4	173	41	14388	3890	329675	36678	5265	1 11	..	98	168	35 14 4
5	7	..	499	..	17574	909	266	1 0 1	..	..	3	2 6 6
6	48	20	3633	1289	89697	8873	1887	1 9	..	27	54	8 15 4
7	1	..	212	..	4650	285	35	2 0	21	..	1	0 0 6
8	14	4	771	131	17219	2078	347	2 0	..	..	1	3 17 6
9	10	..	772	..	27001	1801	345	2 4	..	..	5	2 12 11
10	6	..	575	..	20734	1778	236	1 6	..	..	3	2 15 5
11	107	52	7641	2851	180240	20552	1952	2 0	..	181	123	25 12 7
12	11	3	751	142	21476	1280	166	1 9 1	..	..	2	2 3 6
13	35	6	1907	340	55931	4540	853	1 7	..	40	22	8 14 7
14	7	..	409	..	9892	259	95	..	..	..	..	1 5 0
15	2	..	153	..	6656	600	13	2 7	..	..	3	....
16	5	..	272	..	9419	703	71	2 2	..	..	..	....
17	8	..	502	..	26201	1467	120	2 0	..	..	11	4 4 2
18	71	28	4513	1445	120597	12189	1918	2 3	..	50	51	14 13 0
19	70	32	4803	1998	121002	13913	1704	2 1 1	..	141	58	13 14 7
	978	298	69060	20053	1634074	†171681	22447	..	21	740	673	102 1 11
	891	295	61636	18080	1408995	179303	21261	..	19	746	595	180 3 8
1	11	..	613	..	31017	1641	267	2 0	..	..	6	3 3 1
2	4	..	175	..	4629	336	36	1 11	..	..	..	1 4 5
3	308	64	23633	2854	627442	103181	10333	3 1 1	..	..	..	44 15 0
4	301	66	22381	5767	609118	82928	11523	2 0	..	1000	2123	66 8 8
5	62	16	6000	1720	151226	18037	2900	2 2	..	174	41	....
6	6	..	307	..	10628	1552	69	3 2	..	..	2	1 9 0
7	76	17	5440	1023	121148	10017	2984	1 0	..	225	37	16 1 4
8	22	3	1668	143	53056	8542	858	3 2 1	..	..	17	4 0 3
9	7	..	458	..	13733	1477	158	2 0	..	..	..	2 5 1
10	9	..	614	..	17631	1669	166	2 11	..	..	1	1 12 1
11	20	10	1422	611	53699	9395	1011	3 5	..	..	44	5 17 1
12	7	3	469	127	16556	1483	241	1 10	..	..	5	1 18 3

e Loss. † Before deducting the loss of £169. ‡ Before deducting the loss of £59.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Leadgate	2839	481 96	..	5173	12484	10399	4967	25304	5363	13
Nenthead	118	497	153	113	559	..	..	249	200	14
Swalwell	1166	10900	6283	13	3769	3653	2869	16584	1403	15
Tantobie	661	25133	953	300	3558	4455	6933	12155	403	16
Throekley	2188	48374	22176	3171	15082	9740	10415	41225	2864	17
West Stanley	4750	135178	7865	4147	24712	42477	14897	74748	2081	18
West Wylam & Prudhoe ..	4925	109367	4563	7132	27409	18305	23084	56755	5656	19
Whitfield	143	1654	..	236	811	120	..	1393	3	20
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	50227	1090458	65758	44609	213347	194140	238556	641454	11572	
Productive Societies :—										
Co-operative Bakeries ..	h5	1711	4180	500	429	3253	..	3018	382	21
aDerwent Flour Mill	h10	18277	26728	..	12536	13276	..	17926	3033	22
Produce Socs. Total for 1917	h15	19988	30917	500	12965	16529	..	20944	3415	
District Total for 1917	50242	1116446	96675	45109	226312	210669	238556	662398	44987	
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	45660	1086849	63485	39415	200831	207762	252829	614463	49992	
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	15	19988	30394	300	13039	15700	..	19777	3204	
District Total for previous year (1916)	45675	1106837	93879	39715	213870	223462	252829	634240	53196	
No. 5—EAST DURHAM DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Birtley	5800	98926	29503	5510	45540	41477	18794	22773	14728	1
Boldon	4267	72118	3300	2741	23279	15128	5583	38417	2906	2
Chester-le-Street	5671	167873	7018	8202	33482	30025	20909	95386	14528	3
Craghead and Holmside ..	615	15127	..	1052	3852	7147	..	6937	234	4
Felling Industrial	1824	23610	1429	1294	8922	3532	..	15140	1562	5
Felling Shore, Hew'th, &c	973	14608	..	1107	5720	2044	..	9914	312	6
Gateshead	16696	210997	4466	12092	54388	46311	50616	119000	128	7
Haswell	3406	49310	17298	5291	28496	24559	..	17657	6499	8
Hebburn Colliery	412	1970	108	387	1432	938	..	787	187	9
Jarrow and Hebburn ..	9892	159053	12163	15095	44559	37277	31356	88924	10255	10
Marsden	359	5959	289	391	2367	2080	803	1774	261	11
Murton Colliery	2190	44218	2562	3583	14347	2028	4739	32490	670	12
Pelton Fell	661	12772	287	290	5131	1687	1295	6328	674	13
Rhyhope and Silksworth ..	11641	150113	..	11233	81051	42460	..	80819	1182	14
Seaham Harbour	3770	43034	7494	1831	25159	18903	1736	17901	1072	15
South Hetton Amicable ..	309	2656	506	190	1947	1593	..	457	295	16
South Shields	5754	58768	5892	2381	26814	21574	1104	20741	4292	17
Sunderland	20714	89756	101345	1559	51486	65901	79999	19179	4503	18
Tyne Dock	2192	27609	2096	832	7407	10165	3663	9383	2235	19
West Pelton	1609	47572	632	1383	12895	16144	5413	15471	1458	20
Windy Nook	1797	32816	2350	1932	10788	9299	6378	13015	2204	21
District Total for 1917	99555	1337865	198738	77876	489062	399462	232388	641493	70245	
Totals, previous year (1916)	93711	1315800	103311	75761	447667	418244	238799	660827	71320	
No. 6—SOUTH DURHAM DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Bearpark	248	2145	315	20	1285	570	..	973	155	1
Bishop Auckland	19885	469280	..	25537	125983	62324	139153	212988	11241	2
Brandon and Byshottles ..	1612	41772	831	4018	10187	10541	5235	21552	4614	3
Cornforth and Coxhoe ..	2359	54889	5025	1338	16295	13198	7113	26545	1378	4
Crook	6271	174882	..	554	28234	15732	18419	113358	21425	5

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Net Profit.		In-terest on Share Capital	Aver-age Divi-dend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educa-tional Pur-poses.	Chari-table Pur-poses.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
13	74	14	5502	796	102594	23148	2357	2 10	..	..	40	13 7 0
14	3	..	188	..	4750	283	21	1 9	..	..	2	12 0 0
15	34	10	2680	704	75308	10000	860	2 43	..	40	117	5 17 9
16	20	2	2128	161	48141	3889	1219	1 0	..	39	12	3 4 7
17	75	19	5395	2224	156724	19614	2111	2 3	..	213	35	11 5 1
18	172	36	10744	1755	302986	28401	6548	1 0	..	210	71	21 18 10
19	124	47	9125	3523	267865	39669	4666	2 7	..	270	38	24 17 0
20	4	1	229	66	10053	770	74	2 10 1	..	..	..	0 13 3
	1339	308	99180	21454	2738304	366032	48402	..	..	2171	2591	241 17 9
21 22	..	15	..	1347	13247	1322	86	1 6	..	..	1	1 1 0
	..	49	..	4364	229218	3408	914	0 3	..	..	7	2 2 0
	..	64	..	5711	242465	4730	1000	..	..	..	8	3 3 0
	1339	372	99180	27165	2980769	370762	49402	..	..	2171	2599	245 0 9
	1285	316	85752	21005	2346034	420307	46856	..	..	2007	492	206 11 4
	..	68	..	5782	243021	4229	1000	..	..	..	7	3 3 0
	1285	384	85752	26787	2589655	424536	47856	..	..	2007	499	209 14 4
1	221	75	16483	5879	364001	54869	4024	2 5	7	23	104	26 6 3
2	96	4	7914	266	227222	33119	3421	2 9	..	19	99	21 0 2
3	179	73	15747	4085	376666	52073	6814	2 43	..	164	125	29 1 2
4	17	5	1797	322	52931	7842	793	2 9	..	6	2	3 2 7
5	43	3	2504	68	76353	10735	1123	2 6	..	..	23	9 10 0
6	26	2	1980	74	62696	7453	690	1 11 1	..	..	13	4 19 7
7	477	65	31699	6623	764663	85965	10529	1 11 1	..	..	418	77 7 4
8	92	32	7723	2139	171683	23791	2297	2 43	..	..	97	17 9 8
9	9	..	706	..	16105	1970	88	2 6	..	..	2	2 0 11
10	287	75	15192	6719	507792	77787	7807	2 0	..	541	120	42 13 5
11	8	3	822	169	23384	3162	271	..	..	..	1	1 16 5
12	86	6	5929	380	141483	19295	2071	2 4	..	8	28	11 4 10
13	23	7	1957	460	64473	9082	580	2 8	..	..	47	3 8 6
14	280	82	17017	7108	680740	123058	8210	3 3	..	68	1283	62 8 9
15	111	11	7773	1187	169350	22670	2171	2 74	..	2	59	17 6 2
16	7	2	538	35	15334	1753	117	2 13	..	..	2	1 8 10
17	189	16	10207	906	254203	29694	2620	2 0	..	..	76	29 6 4
18	485	118	24721	7896	511608	22698	4128	1 0	..	745	216	102 0 6
19	65	6	3256	189	79689	10426	1374	2 13	..	..	23	10 5 0
20	..	12	5112	923	109812	13140	2358	2 13	..	..	29	8 3 10
21	68	2	4270	245	112546	14650	1522	2 5	..	..	31	8 0 6
	2769	599	183347	45623	4782731	625232	62948	..	7	1576	2798	489 9 9
	2638	634	163871	45710	4057504	663091	59373	..	1112	2109	2366	457 6 10
1	7	1	510	49	17492	2081	104	2 6	..	..	..	1 5 6
2	464	132	32476	9900	908038	112841	23350	2 0	..	..	186	101 5 1
3	48	26	4440	1893	141718	22528	2066	2 8	..	1	5	8 4 2
4	65	18	5435	2328	136498	15650	2504	1 11 1	..	..	52	11 18 4
5	132	47	9908	4050	355667	41060	6665	2 0	..	15	77	29 17 11

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
SOUTH DURHAM DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Durham	2209	43502	1592	714	6926	9914	30611	2636	1480
Easington Lane	810	12277	934	402	4765	2598	1981	4192	1296
Framwellgate Moor	235	712	1300	..	489	1541	..	361	536
Hetton Downa	2440	45861	1061	2052	14093	11055	4849	22062	1061
Low Moorsley	412	8066	385	403	2302	688	923	5964	345
Newbottle	2550	50735	..	1810	21532	15160	1340	16317	3378
New Brancepeth	1186	22613	7494	363	8744	4014	2880	16482	915
Pittington	1589	30280	420	2348	11881	5101	3875	14878	1445
Sherburn Hill	4400	76065	..	4094	29136	14982	1450	38790	7828
Stanhope and Weardale .	1831	40347	1304	1295	15269	7176	3554	10393	1413
Station Town	1688	30561	2540	1493	10553	7317	1993	16774	404
Tow Law	1541	37465	1832	1000	8433	2906	4378	27108	1943
Tudhoe Colliery	2083	20717	11	1821	7257	4345	..	13864	74
West Cornforth	2107	27256	1446	836	8497	7882	..	17134	1813
Willington	2216	57072	5983	1317	14285	5623	8194	40160	1949
District Total for 1917	57672	1248300	32473	52015	346746	202667	235948	631591	64788
Totals, previous year (1916)	55595	1216296	31806	38468	304514	212673	246684	628603	57220
No. 7.—SOUTH DURHAM & NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Barnard Castle	1088	9178	..	880	3153	3296	100	3508	1314
Castle Howard	383	3408	..	229	1275	128	..	1837	826
Darlington	15086	116210	3285	7205	59520	28961	13693	36093	2336
East Cleveland	4385	61626	5094	5664	16499	13256	12042	36322	2232
Grosmont	401	3077	6	116	676	203	182	2748	..
Guisborough	1790	34592	1669	583	6652	4143	6772	20156	1413
Hartlepool	12143	94608	53897	15549	50469	97611	24090	14353	6626
Kirkby Stephen	469	4030	..	113	1774	1178	..	1075	622
Malton and Norton	926	6907	1050	455	3643	2592	..	2864	366
Marske-by-the-Sea	394	4578	801	209	1990	577	145	3244	178
Middlebrough	25999	203874	10020	15934	122418	100060	18160	35239	1788
Northallerton	982	6648	113	484	3115	602	..	3638	290
Pickering	623	3609	408	245	2160	1485	..	1084	32
Skelton	1909	15619	496	1372	8453	2713	1290	5714	777
Stockton-on-Tees	20293	205614	13781	14137	91300	71143	43291	58265	174
Teesdale Workmen's	1341	30605	735	1650	7544	3039	1999	21586	1103
Thirsk	498	3362	736	250	1363	1950	106	1227	260
Whitby	1307	6564	1128	407	3155	1964	618	2850	227
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	90017	814190	93129	65473	385165	334901	122488	251853	20564
Productive Societies :—									
Brandsby Agricul. Trad'g	352	5068	821	826	2657	1779	..	1014	3659
Northallerton Corn Mill.	478	1709	24	..	223	2804	..	17	1859
Produc. Socs. Total for 1917	830	6777	845	826	2880	4583	..	1931	5518
District Total for 1917	90847	820976	93974	66299	388045	339484	122488	253784	26082
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	83330	791003	86799	68881	328519	322905	125121	295957	17991
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	734	5133	1731	568	3157	4488	..	546	6157
District Total for previous year (1916)	84064	796136	88530	69449	331676	327483	125121	296503	24148

		No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
		Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
				£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
6	46	13	2903	747	67421	7907	2237	1	0	..	88	31	11 10 7
7	25	4	1521	391	44239	5030	590	2	5½	..	..	7	4 4 3
8	5	..	349	..	3804	132	30	..	..	..	..	..	1 4 1
9	90	14	4923	1382	143411	19878	2096	2	8½	..	..	262	11 11 6
10	10	6	864	265	27396	3908	382	2	10½	..	..	4	2 1 3
11	97	20	6949	1892	166573	23740	2424	2	5½	..	..	22	13 10 0
12	40	10	2725	955	83294	12620	1032	3	0	..	..	20	5 17 9
13	57	9	4201	811	103078	16030	1348	3	1½	..	..	65	8 5 1
14	119	32	7279	3535	301232	44730	3369	2	8	..	..	56	21 17 6
15	44	..	2856	..	76095	7282	1473	1	8	..	..	16	9 4 7
16	60	6	4117	581	94954	10658	1388	1	10½	..	..	8	7 7 4
17	42	14	2761	1022	72252	9824	1552	2	4	..	2	51	7 14 8
18	57	3	4624	271	113029	12481	989	2	0	..	..	40	11 2 0
19	41	16	4311	584	133622	16784	1348	2	2	..	..	19	11 3 10
20	57	20	3767	1289	102246	13404	2780	2	1½	..	2	35	11 7 0
		1506	391	106919	31945	3092059	†308436	57727	..	..	108	965	290 12 5
		1501	390	99634	31516	2629378	431015	54086	..	..	146	960	275 14 10
1	15	..	1014	..	36270	2542	429	1	10	..	..	11	5 12 9
2	8	..	527	..	15388	811	156	1	8	..	6	3	1 17 0
3	280	42	20168	3493	419561	42808	4562	1	9	108	459	120	72 5 5
4	113	21	8220	1965	215718	28701	2427	2	3½	..	127	463	21 9 0
5	5	1	359	84	12121	1316	143	2	1	..	..	16	1 10 5
6	46	4	3563	233	87869	8885	1296	1	8	..	17	20	8 17 1
7	392	97	25552	8004	529966	58476	4722	1	10½	..	..	203	59 10 0
8	7	..	515	..	15080	989	164	1	5	..	..	..	2 6 6
9	21	1	862	93	22484	2325	223	1	11	..	16	4	4 14 11
10	9	2	757	46	18022	1815	201	2	1	..	2	7	2 0 0
11	653	141	43905	11556	892701	93859	8385	1	10	..	390	135	124 18 4
12	15	..	953	..	23056	2377	302	1	9½	..	..	23	4 18 1
13	9	..	491	..	14677	1015	171	1	2½	..	..	3	3 3 6
14	33	19	2820	1323	65725	6346	526	1	10½	..	18	13	10 0 0
15	549	145	25939	9864	565839	61681	7047	..	..	..	176	206	94 18 0
16	29	9	2273	588	52917	5226	1125	2	1½	..	25	22	6 18 2
17	9	..	481	..	13548	1115	141	1	4½	..	6	4	2 8 9
18	19	2	1039	98	24080	2090	243	1	7½	..	12	18	6 15 4
		2212	484	139438	37347	3025022	322377	32263	..	108	1254	1271	434 12 3
19	..	20	..	1714	75941	1416	238	1	0	..	..	27	4 11 11
20	4	2	310	136	11311	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
		4	22	310	1850	87252	1525	238	..	..	..	27	1 11 11
		2216	506	139748	39197	3112274	323902	32501	..	108	1254	1298	436 4 2
		2056	505	123117	38601	2676442	342118	31146	..	320	742	900	404 4 5
		5	17	342	1413	43865	862	167	..	..	..	..	1 6 4
		2061	522	123459	40014	2720307	342980	31313	..	320	742	900	405 10 9

e Loss. † Before deducting the loss of £132.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—NORTH NORTHUM- BERLAND	23	27568	470929	52605	24983	156860	106801	60016	252755	19316
" 2—SOUTH NORTHUM- BERLAND	14	70768	1047205	288212	40767	254125	312419	197288	726444	35570
" 3—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND ..	19	39948	594810	26522	30809	185180	143825	37745	259372	49411
" 4—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUM- BERLAND	22	50242	1116446	96675	45109	226312	210669	238556	662338	44987
" 5—EAST DURHAM	21	99555	1337865	198738	77876	487062	592462	232388	641493	70245
" 6—SOUTH DURHAM....	20	57672	1248300	32473	52015	346746	202667	235948	631531	64788
" 7—SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	20	90847	820076	93974	66299	388045	339484	122488	253784	26082
Totals, 1917.....	139	436600	6556031	789199	337358	2046330	1715327	1124429	3427777	310399
Totals, 1916.....	189	404281	6405403	753246	313058	1853158	1780647	1159019	3385801	294507
Increase .....	..	32319	150628	35953	24300	193172	..	..	41976	15892
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	65320	34590	..	..

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c.,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	133	435576	6505839	695618	33246	2023514	1643569	1124429	3372184	296343
Productive Societies ..	6	1024	50192	93581	4898	22816	71758	..	55593	14056
Total for Section (1917) ..	139	436600	6556031	789199	337358	2046330	1715327	1124429	3427777	310399

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c., of
given for purposes of comparison. See also Introduction to

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Soc., (1916)	133	403354	6357489	666932	308949	1831222	1708239	1159019	3340033	280016
Productive Societies ..	6	927	47914	87314	4109	21996	72408	..	45768	14491
Total for Section (1916) ..	139	404281	6405403	753246	313058	1853158	1780647	1159019	3385801	294607

NORTHERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Pur-poses.	Charitable Pur-poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	801	298	56628	22408	1460870	140572	21802	..	313	1234	135 16 2
2	1878	734	132125	45098	3063354	336901	47550	..	521	1518	329 5 10
3	978	298	69060	20053	1634074	171681	22447	21	740	673	192 1 11
4	1339	372	99180	27165	2980769	370762	49402	..	2171	2599	245 0 9
5	2769	599	183847	45623	4782734	625232	62948	7	1576	2798	489 9 9
6	1506	391	106919	31945	3092059	398436	57727	..	108	956	290 12 5
7	2216	506	139748	39197	3112274	323902	32501	108	1254	1298	436 4 2
	11487	3198	787007	231489	20126134	2367486	294377	136	6683	11076	2118 11 0
	11166	3225	698573	226268	17350233	2551610	279740	1526	6680	7784	1947 7 9
	321	..	88434	5221	2775901	..	14637	..	3	3292	171 3 3
	..	27	..	..	..	184124	..	1390	..	..	....

of various classes of Societies for Year 1917.

11483	2832	£ 786697	£ 203732	£ 19752053	£ 2358504	£ 292290	£ 136	£ 6683	£ 11034	£ s. d. 2112 1 1
4	366	310	22757	374081	8982	2087	..	..	42	6 9 11
11487	3198	787007	231489	20126134	2367486	294377	136	6683	11076	2118 11 0

various classes of Societies for previous Year (1916),

Statistics for tables showing increases of membership, &c.

11161	2841	£ 698231	£ 202675	£ 17017284	£ 2544503	£ 277727	£ 1526	£ 6680	£ 7777	£ s. d. 1941 3 5
5	384	342	23593	332949	7107	2013	..	..	7	6 4 4
11166	3225	698573	226268	17350233	2551610	279740	1526	6680	7784	1947 7 9

NORTH-WESTERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
WESTMORLAND, YORK (EAST AND WEST RIDINGS), and ISLE OF

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—AIREDALE DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Addingham	306	5208	..	200	2514	2126	724	208	1
Allerton	481	5865	884	600	1997	937	2424	3641	298
Bingley	3624	87201	11600	4754	13613	19031	45449	30377	1461
Birkenshaw	3724	50460	901	1362	19216	9397	11586	16890	668
Bradford (City of)	23929	447360	26794	10866	120341	196325	81585	161749	4441
Bradley Coal	50	56	..	45	117	12	..	32	19
Buttershaw	391	7748	168	186	2308	1054	772	5993	95
Carleton	172	1449	..	176	991	416	..	734	20
Clayton	820	12485	958	135	3496	2917	827	8120	420
Cononley	459	2575	21	358	1155	352	..	2422	..
Cowling	280	3080	1075	350	2138	1228	200	1543	236
„ and District Coal.	264	124	15	172	82	76	..	215	135
Crossbills	516	4654	60	153	946	1167	..	4131	85
Denholme	650	11662	3613	1047	3382	1677	161	12223	221
Eccleshill	687	8895	337	236	3141	2731	1366	3557	524
a Gargrave	302	2061	7	406	1313	489	..	1381	203
Great Horton	7324	142154	8521	2685	31629	33274	30617	72762	1368
Greengates & Apperley B.	659	9532	559	578	3278	2300	786	5608	667
Guiseley	1349	27163	2868	1605	5453	7034	5253	16761	657
* Hainworth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harrogate	6024	37350	3428	1666	16200	17884	722	11460	1778
Haworth	1124	17285	3724	1901	3963	4140	..	18288	353
Ingleton	578	6501	..	309	3528	1732	808	1656	336
Ingrow	83	526	..	..	220	..	..	772	29
a Keighley	11350	217992	8757	12606	36503	26138	57622	132767	1103
Leeds	70936	1098507	24665	60019	455861	378022	116326	457138	1979
Lees and Cross Roads...	569	10354	1795	803	3794	2856	1419	7027	237
Oxenhope	212	4743	422	360	1445	676	1143	2925	220
Queensbury	2435	51939	4583	1596	12294	14619	5643	31101	616
Rawdon	1597	28465	1890	1691	10417	6231	2375	17165	716
Ripon	918	6360	13	666	2754	2013	236	3413	..
a Settle	412	3272	1310	92	1493	516	2346	551	361
Slaiden	1226	28080	1605	827	7902	15483	2892	8854	890
Skipton	2351	43221	375	1905	18667	21095	1380	10634	1471
Stanbury	100	1032	..	292	350	270	..	911	81
Stanningley Coal	1164	146	..	..	43	273	..	1023	383
Steeton	496	7098	2969	138	1840	2710	779	5905	170
Sutton Mill	570	8211	415	346	3344	1295	1696	4953	168
„ Coal	231	123	..	..	11	..	..	179	54
Thornton	810	14208	1574	975	3298	3825	844	12293	126
a Tong Park	79	465	351	82	483	18	..	565	113
Uppertown	480	6943	183	588	3656	1589	1231	2143	934
Wibsey Slack Side	528	13127	379	592	2143	2076	1196	11510	135
Wilden	510	11544	746	883	2599	1074	184	10302	227
Windhill	9887	147814	12074	8300	31252	25084	37516	98976	155
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	160157	2505954	129657	122581	841170	812162	417384	1201380	24356

* No recent figures available. d 1915 figures.

SECTION.

CARNARVON, CHESTER, DENBIGH, DERBY, FLINT, LANCASTER, STAFFORD, part of MAN, for 1917, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- ter- est on Share Capital	Aver- age Divid- end per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educa- tional Pur poses.	Chari- table Pur poses.	Co-operative Union.	
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	9	2	422	110	12073	1113	180	1 6	..	6	1 12 8	
2	10	2	629	191	20419	2755	208	2 6	..	16	2 9 2	
3	56	46	5774	2794	148564	19504	3112	2 6	..	138	409 18 5 9	
4	68	13	5757	882	147643	17445	2124	2 1 1	..	10	18 4 6	
5	683	355	45096	25670	848094	102535	17467	2 2	..	419	379 123 5 6	
6	1	..	13	..	212	20	3	2 0	..	..	..
7	8	2	786	111	19062	2749	282	2 11	..	29	1 15 5	
8	4	..	155	..	6996	939	58	3 3	..	9	0 16 4	
9	17	6	1166	494	30152	3373	473	2 0	..	9	4 0 3	
10	4	..	293	..	11909	1244	123	2 9 1	..	7	2 8 7	
11	5	..	375	..	13398	834	109	2 9	..	7	1 9 10	
12	2	..	151	..	2866	42	6	..	..	..	..
13	5	2	400	125	13789	1736	172	2 6	..	4	2 13 6	
14	11	5	1055	298	27807	3499	443	2 4 1	..	20	3 4 10	
15	10	1	1006	92	20203	2766	344	2 5 1	..	11	3 9 7	
16	5	..	286	..	9931	1497	101	2 9	..	8	1 11 6	
17	161	52	10098	4216	257621	32294	5386	2 2 1	..	96	36 16 8	
18	12	3	941	310	25160	2400	394	1 8 1	..	21	3 6 11	
19	26	11	2034	696	45372	6294	1038	2 4	..	20	6 18 3	
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21	108	16	6977	1183	127821	9252	1493	1 4	..	116	42 31 5 0	
22	19	7	1142	402	42325	5807	580	2 6	..	45	33 5 13 10	
23	15	3	880	81	23793	2383	295	2 3	..	..	10 2 19 7
24	1	..	165	..	3498	493	19	2 7 1	..	..	..
25	195	101	13422	6473	318921	50678	8567	2 9	..	426	165 58 19 4	
26	1736	590	114082	49559	2690792	354394	35836	2 5	..	2237	759 337 14 10	
27	13	4	862	235	26004	3467	332	2 0	..	..	4 2 17 11
28	2	..	190	..	10299	1399	191	3 0	..	..	4 1 1 0
29	42	32	3015	2352	82324	10414	2159	2 10 1	..	25	52 11 19 3	
30	33	2	2353	233	60650	8459	1215	2 4	..	..	48 8 2 0
31	14	..	831	..	17887	1812	239	1 9	..	19	12 4 8 6	
32	7	1	460	25	10805	1204	142	1 11	..	..	6
33	12	16	1845	1566	50554	5175	1120	2 0	..	..	23 6 4 0
34	60	21	4454	1762	99862	11573	1827	2 0 1	..	..	50 11 11 11
35	1	..	126	..	3876	342	38	2 5	..	..	3 0 11 2
36	2	..	279	..	8065	29	..	..	..	..	3
37	10	1	725	119	19186	2436	263	2 7 1	..	..	3 2 10 3
38	9	..	628	..	21402	2594	293	2 6	..	..	6 2 17 10
39	1	..	67	..	1240	139	6	2 2	..	..	..
40	17	4	1207	341	30212	4225	565	3 0	..	..	31 3 17 3
41	1	..	138	..	3895	518	17	2 10	..	..	.. 0 7 6
42	8	5	693	213	22838	2020	284	2 1	..	..	7 2 8 1
43	11	2	817	128	22541	3934	518	3 1 1	..	..	12 2 13 2
44	12	..	893	..	24542	3415	411	2 8	..	..	11 2 8 4
45	166	71	12305	5412	339723	46826	5993	2 4 1	..	..	167 46 8 8
3592		1376	244993	106073	5725226	736027	94426	3425	2503	779 8 9

c Loss. † Before deducting the loss of £119.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
AIREDALE DISTRICT—Con.									
Productive Societies—									
Airedale Worsteds	489	7481	2325	3077	10727	302	..	3944	4997
Bradford Cabinet Makers	66	3164	3378	307	3600	2100	..	993	289
dKeighley Laundries	17	4012	3014	20	258	6771	..	66	202
Product. Socs. Total for 1917	572	14657	8717	3404	14585	9173	..	5003	5488
District Total for 1917	160729	2610611	138374	125985	855755	821335	417384	1206389	20844
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	150372	2531259	124101	116159	702801	820560	433148	1169129	23854
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	458	14468	9180	2438	12177	9258	..	6267	3383
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	150830	2545727	133281	118507	714978	838818	433148	1175396	27237
No. 2.—BOLTON DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Adlington	885	13276	848	2342	5389	3629	2504	7372	652
Ainsworth New Road ...	347	3847	..	166	929	350	..	3303	109
" Industrial.....	413	7655	..	351	2418	764	1345	3927	..
Bolton	42931	935397	47536	42024	124159	182302	358838	377457	..
Bryn Gates (Bamfurlong) ..	785	11836	2180	593	4834	3647	2406	4799	914
Chorley	3738	42101	10824	3245	12825	15121	8429	23407	251
Eagley	891	18815	2976	607	6016	3910	7258	6663	32
Earlestown	3672	38391	2746	1855	13323	13935	2416	17098	493
Edgworth	624	17354	5791	463	3020	1105	3427	16636	285
aEgerton	325	5501	1957	295	1253	935	..	6329	..
Farnworth and Kearsley ..	9246	141073	38876	13866	38940	61721	39430	68161	513
Heapey	274	4698	..	655	594	601	2645	1911	..
Hindley	3034	31684	4347	1045	12854	11147	3872	13533	285
Hindsford	1131	13981	2653	2005	9057	5345	3348	3398	716
Horwich	3702	50783	8480	2741	18824	11247	7538	32214	668
Hulton and Chequerbent ..	250	6571	164	638	1292	356	1828	4409	57
Leigh	12868	214356	10871	10884	65232	80098	30077	94531	2890
Little Hulton	1142	23605	3840	859	6071	9451	9454	5409	552
Little Lever	734	19476	4013	1801	2901	1656	1201	20448	173
Park Lane	1610	32333	1868	910	10950	7351	2995	15855	1091
Platt Bridge	843	13908	1251	926	6632	3191	1100	6422	885
Radcliffe and Pilkington ..	5360	105193	11918	9804	29218	19812	28542	55948	353
Skelmersdale	1560	11282	33	1028	3996	2676	594	6582	25
†Tyldesley	2262	30645	4916	2022	12324	10737	5115	15048	1373
Walkden	4048	83645	12245	4196	18116	15947	21818	54078	..
Westhoughton Friendly ..	1262	27635	1762	1399	11245	5550	6546	10322	180
" United ..	1694	40379	2718	1815	11428	6746	4731	27839	316
aWheelton	125	1722	538	260	240	168	500	1812	..
aWhite Coppice	10	88	..	44	69	5	..	73	3
aWhittle-le-Woods	277	4768	331	238	1279	609	464	3554	122
Wigan	8915	99107	6751	2736	45914	21711	3691	56955	3425
Withnell (Brinscall)	502	9516	2760	1405	1334	2788	4157	5814	258
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	115475	2059748	195193	123118	482676	504611	566269	971567	16621
Distrib. Federation—									
Westhoughton & District	2	2000	..	124	1551	990	..	281	..
Productive Society—									
aBolton Cabinet Makers	52	1552	1609	1271	5631	377	..	160	595
District Total for 1917	115529	2063300	196802	124513	489858	505978	566269	972008	17216

a 1915 figures.

† 48 weeks' trading.

1917, NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

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	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divid- end per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
46	6	33	2436	2202	44619	4693	373	0 6	60	..	77	4 10 0
47	1	16	104	1488	2811	1119	157	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
48	..	40	..	1911	4727	270	201	1 0	..	..	2	0 7 6
	7	89	2540	5601	52157	£4963.	731	..	60	..	79	5 7 6
	3599	1465	247533	111674	5777383	740990	95157	..	60	3425	2582	784 16 3
	3626	1360	207155	99599	5080684	696503	93154	..	..	3276	3182	711 4 1
	8	102	1358	6578	47065	2305	719	..	60	..	69	5 7 6
	3634	1462	208513	106177	5127749	698808	93873	..	60	3276	3251	716 11 7
1	27	9	1802	504	41266	5613	504	2 6	..	..	5	4 8 8
2	7	..	302	..	10016	1431	167	3 2 1/2	..	..	3	1 12 5
3	5	..	509	..	12546	1779	282	2 4	..	..	5	2 1 7
4	770	289	70494	24141	1369464	199957	27636	2 6	..	3412	512	210 8 8
5	26	10	2080	561	54240	6235	569	2 0	..	59	11	4 17 6
6	78	26	5958	1757	120736	15696	1691	2 3 1/2	..	191	393	19 0 1
7	23	7	1519	429	34985	5077	701	2 8	..	29	25	4 5 9
8	81	20	5252	1891	133907	15622	1583	2 3	..	..	33	18 0 6
9	10	4	844	328	25885	3441	641	2 3	..	..	25	3 2 6
10	6	2	385	109	15894	2355	228	2 10 1/2	..	..	6	1 13 10
11	232	57	18471	4538	357337	42179	5833	2 4 1/2	..	135	194	46 5 4
12	6	..	428	..	13234	1549	241	2 7 1/2	..	..	12	1 9 8
13	87	23	5480	1585	114567	12719	1536	2 4 1/2	..	24	26	15 9 3
14	44	3	2662	327	71154	9179	621	2 4 1/2	..	..	13	5 0 7
15	85	22	6647	1823	145637	16659	2367	1 11 1/2	..	237	701	19 7 5
16	6	2	492	119	16962	2714	320	3 2	..	..	13	1 3 4
17	378	70	34097	5740	624688	94935	8515	2 6	..	870	315	65 16 6
18	34	16	2359	999	59597	8020	1040	..	..	78	29	5 16 1
19	12	3	997	242	33986	4842	798	2 6 1/2	..	..	10	3 17 1
20	45	16	3180	1172	89874	8772	1534	2 0	..	91	12	8 1 6
21	34	5	2121	412	50285	6433	546	2 0	..	..	3	3 18 1
22	121	52	9374	3577	242241	29558	3970	2 0	..	692	124	27 8 3
23	30	2	1713	231	42225	5163	533	2 4	..	10	6	7 10 0
24	89	27	5256	1868	132289	16392	1148	2 3	..	90	32	11 7 11
25	116	33	8900	3229	171357	23254	3046	2 6	..	240	91	15 10 0
26	32	18	1946	900	66052	9436	1217	2 4	..	70	55	6 0 0
27	45	17	3144	1230	108394	13718	1931	2 3	..	..	49	8 8 2
28	2	..	186	..	3842	774	82	4 0	..	5	12	0 13 0
29	1	..	45	..	476	31	6	1 3 1/2	..	..	..	..
30	7	..	529	..	11777	2035	223	3 5	8	..	43	1 10 2
31	288	51	17287	3505	350153	35662	3950	2 1	..	650	1075	40 10 4
32	12	..	928	..	23658	2507	462	2 4 1/2	..	..	30	2 12 6
	2739	784	215387	61217	4549633	603737	73930	..	8	6883	3863	567 6 8
33	4	7	199	511	3777	646	100	2 9	..	..	..	....
34	..	45	..	3577	8232	509	77	..	..	..	1	0 10 0
	2743	836	215586	65305	4561642	604892	74107	..	8	6883	3864	567 16 8

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Build- ings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BOLTON DISTRICT—Con.									
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	108712	2184808	209038	121090	417556	508080	599999	1341722	19332
<i>Distrib. Federation Total for previous year (1916)</i>	2	2000	..	116	1207	1053	..	605	..
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	52	1552	1609	1271	5631	377	..	160	595
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	108766	2188360	210647	123377	424394	509510	599999	1342487	19927
No. 3—CALDERDALE DIST—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Barkisland	163	1668	..	240	772	272	..	1250	62
Blackshawhead	111	1466	100	206	348	84	33	1531	9
Brighouse	9343	162810	5446	6829	47632	34823	39213	82099	412
Copley	215	1168	..	139	897	5	..	1221	..
Cragg Vale	222	5640	475	472	1233	701	233	5086	195
Halifax Coal	1303	895	102	385	110	624	..	276	1154
Industrial	13999	126678	19828	9094	64331	59361	16460	42226	3553
Hebden Bridge Industrial	2964	72287	6958	4024	18663	22018	12034	38359	490
Heptonstall	440	6210	162	699	2003	1191	505	3986	246
Holmfild	335	4848	857	168	1687	1167	830	3174	..
Coal	205	2165	364	80	765	1006	..	239	966
Ilkington	438	5729	800	493	2686	965	1417	2761	431
Luddenden	744	11476	3958	440	3644	2818	2261	8875	297
Luddendenfoot	464	10024	306	1059	1789	495	766	9064	345
Midgley	762	18063	832	1540	4589	2025	6723	9140	467
Mytholmroyd	162	2496	378	279	650	445	1358	962	73
Pecket Well	763	10424	534	407	3539	2420	1841	6277	266
Ripponden	384	4800	61	97	1100	1301	845	2855	78
Siddall	4889	83465	10496	2540	15074	17359	14035	60583	1150
Sowerby Bridge Industri	958	23075	185	519	4534	2206	1791	17279	515
Stainland & Holywell Gn.	4800	131456	249	7730	36011	24793	68528	27351	1041
Todmorden	846	32010	2	661	4294	4900	11856	14343	139
Bridge End.. . . .	187	2712	128	364	1078	532	383	2012	190
Wainstalls	747	30902	..	1399	3365	5825	11432	13817	230
Walsden									
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	45444	753367	52221	39933	220863	187336	192544	354775	12318
Productive Societies—									
Calderdale Clog Sundries	146	1738	350	840	172	1102	..	1040	176
Manufact'g (Walsden.)	935	38518	400	19358	12614	19920	..	23967	7583
Hebden Bridge Fustian .									
Produc. Soc. Total for 1917	1081	40256	750	20198	12786	21022	..	25907	7759
District Total for 1917	46525	793623	52971	60131	233940	208358	192544	380682	20077
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	42866	740804	57475	38838	216809	197637	217287	329807	13243
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	1040	36115	1926	18898	10834	22261	..	20166	10822
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	43906	776919	59401	57736	227643	219898	217287	349473	24065
No. 4—CHESHIRE & NORTH WALES DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bangor	403	2169	214	199	2210	668	..	448	300
Birkenhead	19603	150544	16129	5413	67025	69528	1383	55586	2714
Bromborough Pool	200	1215	..	50	1315	..	..	603	..

* No recent figures available.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages	Subscriptions.			
									Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
	2581	866	183802	59000	4039615	650493	76696	..	8	7054	2938	541 11 9
	4	7	185	511	4122	780	100	..	..	..	..	....
	..	45	..	3577	8232	509	77	..	..	..	1	0 10 0
	2585	918	183987	63088	4051969	660791	76873	..	8	7054	2939	542 1 9
1	2	..	141	..	7429	522	64	2 6	..	..	..	0 14 7
2	1	..	86	..	4140	325	57	3 0	..	..	..	....
3	155	112	16053	7659	412844	60222	7403	2 6 1/2	..	100	110	46 8 6
4	2	..	175	..	7614	1366	48	3 4 1/2	..	..	2	..
5	4	..	280	..	9553	1237	234	3 5	..	..	9	1 3 4
6	6	..	457	..	5100	782	3 4	..	..	..	4	....
7	248	94	22618	7245	552191	61732	4903	2 5	..	130	100	66 2 7
8	61	38	4296	3275	129012	15615	2530	2 6	..	346	..	15 9 9
9	6	1	705	38	21806	1922	232	2 4 1/2	..	..	7	2 5 8
10	4	2	318	105	11239	1773	190	3 0	..	..	2	1 14 0
11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	3	..	538	..	24987	1113	62	3 0	..	..	3	1 0 10
13	8	1	555	49	17632	2695	252	3 10	..	7	12	2 3 4
14	11	2	792	181	27561	5139	569	3 7 1/2	..	..	10	3 15 5
15	6	1	376	107	14900	3374	433	4 0	..	..	8	2 17 9
16	13	6	1043	345	35099	4654	722	2 9 1/2	..	83	28	3 17 8
17	3	..	105	..	6358	858	120	3 3 1/2	..	..	22	0 16 8
18	16	2	1589	212	45741	3855	512	2 9	..	..	6	3 8 10
19	2	..	283	..	11550	2109	210	3 6	..	4	5	1 18 4
20	80	38	6568	3229	209915	27428	3715	2 10 1/2	..	..	75	23 11 4
21	12	8	1182	421	40905	4617	981	1 10 1/2	..	..	9	4 17 11
22	127	54	7641	3537	190216	27793	5298	2 9	..	..	62	24 13 8
23	15	6	1080	362	37589	5747	1233	3 0	..	188	23	4 6 1
24	3	..	284	..	12760	1497	134	3 7	..	..	5	0 17 11
25	11	4	1154	274	33878	5061	1197	2 11 1/2	..	119	28	3 16 0
	790	369	68328	27039	1870919	241436	31108	..	..	1382	500	216 0 2
26	..	11	..	852	5302	208	86	1 0	44	..	5	1 0 0
27	..	308	..	26222	137876	9030	1738	1 0	1111	..	97	10 0 0
	..	319	..	27074	143178	9238	1824	..	1155	..	102	11 0 0
	790	688	68328	54113	2014097	250674	32932	..	1155	1382	692	227 0 2
	779	396	61554	25704	1691335	254809	29070	..	..	1346	781	207 0 11
	..	302	..	20984	90987	8153	1794	..	1066	1	104	11 0 0
	779	698	61554	40688	1782322	262962	30864	..	1066	1347	885	218 0 11
1	8	..	442	..	10717	876	84	1 8	5	..	1	2 0 0
2	444	82	28964	7019	541155	55151	6531	1 9	559	360	44	87 18 0
3	5	..	485	..	12520	1542	58	2 7	..	5	..	....

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Biddings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brymbo	532	2651	3194	934	4066	1796	..	1681	361
Buckley	722	3338	1667	484	5132	2595	..	796	324
Carnarvon	278	799	5	321	786	22	..	500	6
Cefn	2070	15299	2543	2739	13966	7353	577	3070	620
Chester	5827	75006	8700	19122	29411	53796	3400	26114	276
Colwyn Bay	1200	10108	107	237	7740	637	637	2080	496
Cynfal	117	284	376	141	463	183	..	70	180
Deiniolen	145	212	239	16	223	299	..	438	61
Dolgarrog	105	315	847	..	538	340	..	349	261
Eifl Workmen's	111	862	..	210	739	22	..	604	189
Ellesmere Port	1865	15162	6667	1290	10298	6157	4098	5296	577
Employers' Provident (Port Sunlight)	909	4936	256	518	5383	608	..	1885	183
Ewloe Place	184	1107	..	79	823	252	..	379	118
Ffynnon Groyw	192	1352	1109	337	539	961	795	551	106
Flint and Oakenholt	974	8077	100	933	6128	3900	..	427	278
Garston	1624	10778	260	391	5062	6007	415	2156	153
Hawarden	488	3160	1918	188	3031	2237	130	255	177
Holyhead	1133	3456	2359	207	3603	1537	..	1970	21
Leeswood	132	789	930	162	609	866	431	165	129
Liverpool	46191	287819	43710	22590	150332	106863	2454	49888	23
Llanberis	234	475	..	200	459	141	..	348	221
Llandudno Junction	446	2063	51	629	1373	411	..	1037	164
Llanfairfechan	240	1285	137	62	875	77	..	510	550
Llanrug	151	301	346	..	179	437	..	154	570
Mold Junction	207	995	5	102	748	35	..	503	13
New York (Penmaenm'r)	320	1225	689	200	1326	1097	..	495	48
Pant-y-Fownog	129	643	..	235	756	140	277	96	60
Penyffordd	198	344	668	..	634	111	373	468	430
Queen's Ferry	2220	20527	3905	1388	14323	6362	3590	3025	650
Rhyl	292	1112	5	216	869	129	..	387	143
Rivals	54	84	2	..	113	7	..	80	9
Runcorn and Widnes	10323	131590	4468	12737	51200	38619	40153	54365	35
St. Helens	17782	62609	35641	33199	62101	51444	17305	42184	2058
Sychtyn	127	848	334	22	770	627	..	189	154
Warrington	17687	155876	4450	24921	65267	51232	7533	89267	38
Whiston	1045	4516	1733	748	3524	1299	2185	1249	569
Wrexham	2574	15405	804	1212	12855	7288	1746	2144	746
District Total for 1917	139034	1000026	144568	132432	529827	523186	87482	351818	13882
District Total for previous year (1916)	129306	966655	133420	117283	466472	526321	91490	369956	15946
No. 5—DEWSBURY DIST.—Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Altofts	349	1957	..	300	1739	..	..	1717	..
Batley	6800	154116	1737	1392	25890	41595	47136	53047	688
Battleyford (Mirfield)	384	5740	793	392	1384	1492	1634	3304	47
Beeston	300	3899	..	182	1138	489	1162	2014	195
† Birstall	2283	38556	964	2151	9795	2972	9540	25270	90
Churwell	736	12220	30	692	3320	2967	4225	4480	314
Cleckheaton	5595	86463	10522	7592	33858	25644	35648	30608	2930
Crigglestone	510	1766	645	864	2664	920	390	613	673
Dewsbury	15935	331563	1037	9230	46709	78258	61234	180726	2348
Drighlington	1242	18600	..	100	5058	4905	2938	8713	..
* Farley .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Gomersal	1130	17809	..	1218	5205	2878	3270	9399	343
Grange Moor Friendly	170	3756	..	233	853	230	300	3200	249
United	110	2603	79	160	680	617	475	1370	333
Heddon	10147	221369	6057	3786	35182	31898	34841	146079	3022
Hopton (Upper)	156	4843	645	280	1241	600	..	4623	116

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
4	13	4	884	293	21794	672	56 1 41	..	..	8	2 17 4
5	21	4	1316	339	30320	402	45 0 10 1/2	..	..	..	3 15 9
6	4	..	237	..	4634	532	27 1 6	..	..	..	1 5 0
7	42	8	3059	850	84872	9684	673 2 0	..	..	26	9 12 0
8	176	33	11970	3181	212737	27249	3461 2 0 1/2	..	40	37	28 18 4
9	18	4	1148	542	21867	1364	406 1 0	..	..	3	5 0 2
10	2	..	121	..	5196	206	11 1 3	21	..	2	..
11	2	..	145	..	4975	404	16 1 6	..	..	..	0 10 5
12	4	..	378	..	7599	£322	11 ..	..	..	..	..
13	2	..	125	..	5000	427	10 2 0	..	..	..	0 12 0
14	66	17	3748	1920	73266	7033	725 1 7 1/2	..	36	40	8 19 6
15	31	9	2210	673	45299	3111	218 1 5	61	29	4	4 7 6
16	4	..	289	..	9701	1102	39 2 4	..	..	..	0 14 2
17	4	1	223	78	7292	392	43 1 3	..	..	..	0 15 7
18	34	3	2264	351	43554	4444	379 1 8	..	..	9	4 15 10
19	38	8	2377	744	42588	3520	481 1 6	..	..	..	7 17 6
20	12	3	804	266	22290	1705	124 1 7	..	..	..	2 9 9
21	19	4	1340	298	25359	2288	159 1 9	..	..	1	5 14 7
22	3	..	188	..	6564	569	31 1 6	..	..	4	0 12 1
23	1010	108	68535	12123	1076082	110681	12593 1 9	..	1000	181	228 4 2
24	5	..	323	..	10652	978	22 ..	..	..	..	1 5 0
25	9	..	513	..	10803	976	90 1 6 1/2	..	2	1	2 4 0
26	4	..	286	..	6288	461	53 1 4	..	..	..	1 0 0
27	3	..	94	..	2836	£426	..	..	..	..	0 14 7
28	6	1	439	108	8548	769	40 2 0	..	..	..	1 1 0
29	6	2	443	107	10362	654	53 1 0	..	..	..	1 13 4
30	3	..	226	..	7733	1092	28 ..	..	..	..	0 12 0
31	4	..	296	..	8346	£1447	8 0 6	..	..	..	0 16 0
32	52	8	4371	842	81525	6598	1022 1 6	..	20	21	10 12 2
33	3	2	272	156	6406	200	44 0 9	..	..	..	1 10 0
34	1	..	19	..	948	32	2 0 9	..	..	..	..
35	278	46	17411	6053	409761	47788	5155 2 0	..	497	103	50 15 10
36	475	60	31653	5134	667098	79176	2631 2 4	..	112	128	85 6 9
37	4	..	202	..	6989	501	41 1 6	..	..	..	0 6 0
38	288	54	20903	5352	548735	85447	5864 2 6 1/2	..	807	230	85 11 8
39	18	4	1477	426	37603	4599	180 2 3	..	..	..	4 8 6
40	56	7	4031	878	78071	7961	715 1 11	..	74	56	11 14 4
3177		472	214220	47733	4254085	476676	42129	..	646	2082	899 666 10 10
3084		567	184649	44555	3685471	451837	39528	..	532	3314	1260 603 6 11
1	7	..	573	..	21807	4436	67 4 0	..	..	10	1 16 6
2	125	62	8845	4268	247446	28513	6140 1 10	..	501	278	34 8 0
3	6	..	494	..	13305	1518	239 ..	..	..	6	1 16 5
4	4	..	350	..	11947	1631	140 2 6	..	9	2	1 0 10
5	46	15	2415	657	59197	6723	1123 1 7	..	79	12	11 15 5
6	13	4	1242	267	31261	3599	449 2 0	..	18	2	3 10 0
7	135	46	10026	3122	242030	28366	3540 1 11	..	500	228	28 12 11
8	13	1	929	110	27468	2852	85 2 1 1/2	..	4	7	2 10 5
9	249	76	21004	5620	468270	66213	13213 2 1 1/2	..	1073	181	76 12 0
10	21	6	1454	299	46332	5544	734 1 11 1/2	..	..	33	6 4 0
11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	19	4	1792	188	45823	5321	778 2 0 1/2	..	..	97	5 13 7
13	2	..	303	..	10406	1420	147 2 5 1/2	..	..	5	0 17 4
14	3	..	190	..	7583	1101	103 2 8	..	..	..	..
15	167	54	13645	4277	352796	43073	8508 2 0 1/2	..	401	460	47 0 0
16	1	1	173	83	9021	1518	213 2 11 1/2	..	..	3	0 15 0

e Loss.

‡ Before deducting the loss of £2,195.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
DEWSBURY DISTRICT—Con.										
Horbury	2106	38954	4250	1256	14684	8604	11376	13241	1653	17
Liversedge	1235	7519	49	674	4194	2280	240	2280	82	18
Middletown	891	13841	459	2229	6789	2948	1229	7565	1841	19
Mirfield Industrial	2066	35791	6355	1661	12413	7132	5747	24418	1250	20
„ Perseverance	989	11167	858	649	4099	1424	452	8328	422	21
Morley	8139	193156	1061	5348	29058	25118	22019	134097	1124	22
Ossett	3619	47878	7337	1538	16553	13832	800	30070	685	23
Ravensthorpe	526	7596	936	630	1204	1688	2848	4140	260	24
Wakefield Borough	2639	22838	..	1707	7099	5690	3000	11301	978	25
„ Industrial	7454	50797	7586	4058	31849	36512	3888	6859	1987	26
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	75511	1334797	60400	48232	302658	300603	254392	724362	21630	
Distrib. Federation—										
West Yorkshire Coal Federation	44	23424	50	947	..	..	..	25539	6802	27
Productive Society—										
Dewsbury Co-op. Laundry	10	3448	1950	538	536	3765	..	1706	457	28
District Total for 1917	75565	1361669	62400	49717	303194	304368	254392	751607	28949	
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	71432	1324452	54441	45268	289123	308053	261097	581889	22582	
<i>Distrib. Federation Total for previous year (1916)</i>	44	21760	50	901	..	..	..	23621	5565	
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	10	3417	1441	512	312	3776	..	1383	404	
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	71486	1349629	55932	46681	289435	311829	261097	606893	28551	
No. 6—EAST YORKSHIRE DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Beverley	905	4807	847	667	3847	1122	..	2134	349	1
bCastleford and Allerton ..	4816	34296	..	3403	9298	193	..	42115	..	2
„ Industrial	5673	39281	3672	3689	23156	17848	5994	8646	1335	3
Driffield	404	4282	265	300	1707	1074	..	2221	461	4
Escrick	172	1763	..	522	985	10	..	1772	543	5
Hull	28000	195878	53464	8386	101219	132210	6804	44616	8523	6
Kippax	1284	8815	897	1063	5478	2729	1000	3614	1000	7
Market Weighton	820	7240	360	370	3724	1042	1013	2366	848	8
Pocklington	700	2563	74	785	3246	1017	..	3295	1725	9
bRiceall	80	78	5	136	316	23	..	324	..	10
Scarborough	2215	13525	3799	171	5685	11752	634	2007	965	11
Selby	904	9710	665	648	2330	2329	597	6599	364	12
Tadcaster	868	6463	1261	672	4066	3487	1010	970	513	13
aWetherby	621	4256	453	327	2853	2077	..	869	699	14
York	12400	154247	16621	8014	53444	59228	3972	84484	62	15
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	59862	487213	82368	29158	221554	236150	21024	206032	17387	
Productive Society—										
Hull Printers	65	2268	2506	2737	960	6011	..	321	917	16
District Total for 1917	59927	489481	84894	31895	222514	242161	21024	206353	18304	
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	57249	465157	68810	26919	191403	233862	20392	206360	19688	
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	65	2284	2506	2222	839	5812	..	461	650	
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	57314	467441	71316	29141	192332	239674	20392	206821	20338	

* No recent figures available.

† Nine months' trading.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
						Net Profit.	Inter- est on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.					Co-operative Union.				
			£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.			
17	40	11	3390	915	94522	11373	1590	2 1 1/2	..	119	56	10 12 6		
18	16	..	1238	..	31321	3781	339	2 2	..	..	27	6 7 6
19	21	9	1700	440	52197	6754	638	2 5	..	..	9	4 3 4
20	48	22	3826	1151	90362	11183	1444	2 1 1/2	..	9	70	10 5 6		
21	15	..	1173	..	36727	4976	439	2 5 1/2	..	..	76	4 16 0
22	138	58	9633	3444	328825	36880	7735	1 8	..	592	111	41 4 0		
23	55	21	4823	1965	121553	14514	2167	1 10	..	..	115	18 8 10
24	6	..	436	..	16956	2444	313	..	..	..	9	2 18 4
25	42	2	2782	147	79156	8210	1079	1 9	..	..	..	12 12 1
26	156	41	10914	2346	258792	18399	2150	1 2 1/2	..	308	25	38 6 9		
			1348	433	103359	29299	2705103	320342	53373	3613	1822	372 7 3
27	1	..	109	..	78119	2317	1142	0 4	0 5 0	
28	2	41	2179	2438	5026	489	172	0 5	..	..	1	0 5 0
			1351	474	103647	31737	2788248	323148	54687	3613	1823	372 17 3
			1351	434	96482	28588	2448144	369388	51806	4188	1501	342 6 6
			1	..	109	..	74517	2697	988	0 5 0
			..	43	..	2258	4578	530	170	2	0 5 0	
			1352	477	96591	30846	2527239	372615	52964	4188	1503	342 16 6
1	15	1	1059	110	23010	1860	214	1 2	..	36	4	4 8 4		
2	4917	..	140714	32945	1517	1	
3	113	28	7863	2079	201321	22126	1859	1 6	..	242	57	29 8 6		
4	9	..	518	..	10240	873	191	1 2	6	5	5	1 19 11		
5	4	..	269	..	20299	1016	70	1 6	0 17 2	
6	609	134	40630	13140	715480	39010	9487	0 9	..	762	257	136 12 5		
7	37	6	2175	322	70428	5277	343	1 6	..	..	23	6 4 0
8	19	..	1156	..	29988	1941	313	1 7 1/2	..	..	8	3 15 0
9	31	..	881	..	45398	1451	74	2 0	..	..	7	3 0 3
10	75	..	1636	32	3	
11	46	6	2585	544	45507	3469	515	1 4 1/2	..	80	7	10 13 4		
12	14	..	1068	..	27297	2340	457	1 4	..	10	13	4 9 10		
13	21	5	1314	208	29562	2855	304	1 8	..	13	5	4 8 2		
14	8	1	583	81	15104	1495	193	1 10 1/2	..	..	15	3 6 11
15	319	93	25965	8224	397836	31583	7553	1 6	984	477	423	63 10 10		
			1905	274	91058	24708	1773820	148273	23093	..	940	1625	824	272 14 8
16	..	26	..	1794	4353	340	113	..	43	0 10 6	
			1305	300	91058	26502	1778173	148613	23206	..	983	1625	824	273 5 2
			1248	281	78714	19525	1603320	178620	21394	..	1207	1916	702	243 6 0
			..	27	..	1704	3744	479	115	..	43	15	..	0 10 6
			1248	308	78714	21229	1607064	179099	21500	..	1250	1931	702	243 16 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 7—HUDDERSFIELD DIS- Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Brockholes	430	9422	848	398	1617	1757	1212	6980	372
Central Working Men's (Golcar)	500	8136	723	358	2581	2092	1200	3225	1004
Close Hill	958	25892	1341	2912	4957	4426	11300	11795	854
Cowms, Lepton	261	2209	60	30	949	142	..	1945	20
Crosland Moor	1199	21083	400	778	5218	3114	2891	13738	1307
Dogley Bar	220	3356	372	336	1549	588	..	2277	252
Emley	452	6383	242	416	4030	833	38	2895	661
Flockton	278	2682	966	603	1429	1089	707	1751	840
Golcar	1130	44143	3414	1314	5810	4200	2054	42113	340
Hepworth	673	25584	3289	712	7586	2627	1004	20228	1366
Highburton	310	3875	..	378	1751	532	..	2961	381
Hillhouse	3181	29248	..	1052	10371	13394	2796	8963	768
Hill Top (Paddock)	778	10220	250	662	2286	847	115	9150	748
Hinchcliffe Mill	1164	12442	100	750	7118	1710	570	6182	950
Honley	1310	27832	3581	1543	5536	9558	4823	16517	425
Huddersfield	20200	240207	27273	9187	91317	77096	45417	85996	2284
Junction House (Slaith- waite)	329	2389	..	..	1536	630	..	1440	503
Kirkburton	324	5433	..	425	1328	346	1008	3952	299
Kirkheaton	349	8986	..	533	1537	1219	2680	4925	651
Lane Dyehouse	527	7534	184	375	2836	1720	3150	1984	361
Lepton Field	178	2149	..	147	489	445	..	1876	107
" Town Bottom ..	121	851	..	270	681	..	..	951	73
Linthwaite	968	16116	833	558	3692	2590	5129	7181	1101
Longwood	838	16179	962	641	6379	3184	4797	6146	507
Marsden Equitable	1118	25346	10210	635	8772	8350	12245	9665	1080
Meltham Industrial	1238	40568	5003	1485	8935	5234	5158	32778	1377
" Mills Provident.	233	3035	..	389	560	..	..	3320	299
Milnsbridge	2051	21031	1013	278	8712	7491	278	8821	1062
Netherthong	321	8139	675	252	1752	2263	471	5589	339
Nettleton	194	1259	124	177	576	1046	..	411	101
Parkgate and Berry Brow	1080	25841	1300	2000	4444	2660	9980	15985	732
Scapeloat Hill	314	7476	1489	411	1672	1229	50	7376	446
Scissett	1285	11274	1661	567	4818	4504	2068	4291	870
Sheepridge	475	8246	..	487	2356	1506	1105	5011	246
Shelley	407	9263	200	342	1818	2216	..	6931	534
Shepley	499	11545	746	398	2235	873	2099	7950	531
Skelmanthorpe	583	17272	429	627	4915	3577	737	10398	839
Slaithwaite	3037	64368	25429	4326	11802	15601	3727	74808	1185
South Crosland & Nethertn	588	11552	10	839	6100	2308	1292	4880	903
Wooldale	690	23658	1556	854	3431	3399	4075	16943	569
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	50791	822174	94692	38454	245481	197896	134896	480278	27290
Distrib. Federations—									
Holmfirth Boot and Shoe	74	1200	..	175	983	95	..	506	30
Scarwood Coal	78	1600	..	14	410	10	1778	951	1414
Distrib. Feder. Total for 1917	12	2800	..	189	1393	105	1778	1457	1444
Productive Society—									
Wm. Thomson and Sons.	422	14870	20021	3972	20671	663	..	5290	15390
District Total for 1917	51225	839844	114713	42615	267545	198664	136674	487025	44070
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>48148</i>	<i>756507</i>	<i>93119</i>	<i>41452</i>	<i>221618</i>	<i>196401</i>	<i>132247</i>	<i>473186</i>	<i>26539</i>
<i>Distrib. Federation Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>2500</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>1327</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>1851</i>	<i>2221</i>	<i>1664</i>
<i>† Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>429</i>	<i>16717</i>	<i>21513</i>	<i>4861</i>	<i>25791</i>	<i>2303</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>3334</i>	<i>15819</i>
<i>† District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>48589</i>	<i>775724</i>	<i>114667</i>	<i>46653</i>	<i>248736</i>	<i>198826</i>	<i>134098</i>	<i>478741</i>	<i>44022</i>

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	7	1	584	113	19897	2245	378	1 10½	..	7	5	2 6 4
2	8	2	518	214	22441	3035	368	2 11	..	..	10	2 12 1
3	17	2	1528	66	44281	5775	1150	2 4½	..	7	12	5 0 0
4	4	..	330	..	11361	1505	79	2 9	..	..	3	1 8 9
5	22	8	1911	606	55429	6560	843	2 1½	..	20	18	6 1 5
6	3	..	272	..	9464	1080	128	2 4	..	..	10	1 0 10
7	8	1	740	29	24178	1916	287	1 6	..	..	2	2 7 10
8	3	2	404	42	20799	2097	107	2 3	..	..	..	..
9	18	7	1920	575	56491	8420	1910	2 11½	..	..	20	5 10 1
10	17	2	1220	113	47971	5221	1135	1 11	..	10	12	3 9 7
11	3	..	399	..	14281	2538	151	3 5	..	..	2	..
12	60	10	4730	701	105255	13032	1355	2 3	..	..	80	15 17 10
13	11	..	882	..	29858	4422	494	2 8	..	..	5	3 16 11
14	22	..	1815	..	47020	5622	548	2 6	..	..	71	6 0 5
15	30	7	1929	619	54579	4921	1110	1 9	..	28	26	6 11 10
16	488	152	41906	10855	793028	75712	10361	1 10½	..	859	359	98 13 0
17	5	..	417	..	13546	2054	116	3 8	..	..	..	1 10 2
18	4	..	325	..	15513	1802	214	2 2	..	..	16	1 12 11
19	6	1	441	100	19936	2125	334	2 9	..	..	7	1 12 4
20	11	1	869	123	19675	2560	311	2 4	..	..	14	2 10 0
21	2	..	186	..	8574	1214	89	2 8	..	..	2	1 2 6
22	2	..	150	..	6780	1079	38	3 1	..	..	2	..
23	15	4	1245	308	37588	3677	619	2 1½	..	..	10	5 0 5
24	8	4	1299	376	43165	4483	733	1 10½	..	..	18	4 2 11
25	25	15	2375	953	66132	5553	1118	1 8	..	..	14	5 8 2
26	23	13	2158	868	78002	11652	1705	2 7½	..	14	250	6 5 8
27	3	..	221	..	8331	1335	151	..	..	..	3	1 1 4
28	30	12	2536	819	79159	8158	887	3 2	..	..	21	9 16 10
29	5	1	466	67	14560	1537	382	2 0	..	..	12	1 10 10
30	2	..	214	..	7753	1120	63	2 10	..	..	4	..
31	25	2	1919	146	51971	6522	1032	2 1	..	..	15	5 5 3
32	7	2	486	179	19782	2403	328	2 4	..	..	11	1 9 4
33	16	4	1473	295	54531	4275	549	1 10	..	..	17	6 10 11
34	6	..	434	..	18688	2668	347	2 7	..	..	4	2 3 4
35	7	2	481	102	22278	2525	416	2 1½	..	..	6	2 1 10
36	6	3	582	137	23823	2695	536	1 11	..	..	18	2 12 1
37	11	1	941	38	35658	2921	780	1 5	..	..	8	2 19 2
38	69	41	5448	2770	161889	19600	3065	2 5½	..	5	31	15 12 6
39	13	5	968	555	33813	3925	546	2 0	..	..	5	3 0 0
40	13	7	1237	278	34129	3758	1005	2 0	..	16	16	3 7 8
	1035	312	87959	22047	2231609	243751	35768	..	..	966	1139	247 13 1
41	3	4	159	449	3641	401	50	2 0	..	..	1	0 10 0
42	2	..	281	..	25702	3721	80	2 3	..	..	..	0 5 0
	5	4	440	449	29343	4122	130	..	..	..	1	0 15 0
43	..	106	..	11884	81611	6606	743	..	..	..	52	3 5 0
	1040	422	88399	34380	2342563	1247873	36641	..	..	966	1192	251 13 1
	896	456	70666	25909	1986017	300275	30449	..	..	1068	638	231 17 3
	5	4	433	495	27148	4209	116	..	..	..	2	0 15 0
	..	134	..	11291	66162	258	740	..	..	..	40	3 10 0
	901	594	71099	37695	2079327	304742	31305	..	..	1068	680	236 2 3

; Before deducting the loss of £606. e Loss.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 8—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE, AND DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Burslem	17122	119167	7177	7544	56041	63820	272	44620	1
Butt Lane	2556	24289	10457	2250	17444	7694	6824	7698	2
Congleton	4200	48226	12008	2313	12053	12247	3891	41732	3
Crewe Friendly	12963	207161	22242	23828	65551	67052	57390	68790	4
Disley	362	7853	956	809	985	939	2508	5135	5
Dove Holes	411	4908	941	640	1666	456	139	4617	6
Great Rocks	215	3004	134	468	1964	1090	...	706	7
Hazel Grove	1322	25258	1612	1470	5048	7093	6365	11668	8
Leek and Moorlands	4524	41842	8457	2308	25873	20585	3965	8169	9
Macclesfield	7580	97417	42085	3393	32126	21377	33217	65566	10
Malkins Bank	240	2634	..	217	524	95	285	2194	11
Peak Forest	96	828	..	544	780	7	..	768	12
Poynton and Worth	578	21120	32	794	3106	2346	2594	14818	13
Sandbach	2443	35687	4530	943	12509	13017	3027	13505	14
Silverdale	6050	58033	284	7886	19829	12518	6114	38319	15
†Stockport	13073	192430	3071	3654	57323	62861	16874	82095	16
„ Great Moor	476	5746	780	430	1803	1862	770	2932	17
Styal	271	1735	..	535	1043	87	..	1215	18
Whitehough	79	605	2	6	203	173	..	258	19
Winnington, Northwich, and District	4619	38535	19852	4636	19332	20741	14170	15927	20
Winsford	3720	40180	3534	2740	13513	15813	5130	15348	21
Woodley	753	9056	1627	452	2583	2378	3040	3618	22
Youlgrave	531	3957	247	2483	2785	1158	137	2414	23
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	84103	089671	140928	70382	354264	335409	167021	447121	59905
Productive Societies—									
aLeek Silk Twist Manuf'g	119	8809	8571	2489	9782	4074	..	4603	24
Macclesfield Silk Manuf'g	264	8648	10910	..	9871	4016	..	1982	25
Nantwich Boot and Shoe	109	793	575	434	1101	905	..	442	26
Produc. Soc. Total for 1917	492	18250	20056	2923	20754	8995	..	7027	17070
District Total for 1917	84685	1007921	160984	73305	375018	344404	167021	454148	76075
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	79713	974187	139035	71565	321667	329751	182455	436565	62097
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	497	18270	20162	2828	19551	9537	..	6073	17605
District Total for previous year (1916)	80210	992457	150197	74393	341218	339288	182455	442638	79702
No. 9—MANCHESTER DIS.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Beswick	16152	147048	27945	9154	44163	77674	2578	81103	3952
Blackley	7606	108483	1216	5492	31495	37641	27786	27757	2105
Broadbottom	355	1815	1	120	730	415	..	933	153
Chisworth	194	1352	..	289	860	4	..	880	163
Clifton	698	14822	1665	611	4880	3764	4284	5821	564
Compstall	3740	61327	12396	4948	15610	15684	15823	41990	1550
Denton and Haughton	1797	34421	4265	1654	9720	7473	3745	21126	2086
Droylsden	7626	98621	9490	12641	57114	53180	17458	17262	244
Eccles	19280	284653	47163	13595	69550	112716	105676	75867	7802
Failssworth	12225	186606	16535	11514	51155	43247	52408	87157	191
Glossop Dale	3550	78703	7537	4828	9585	13211	12357	60730	8
Hadfield	1704	44572	5788	1482	6286	5014	4195	38653	335
Haughton Green	561	4081	1648	200	2509	714	1737	2568	333
Hayfield	598	8593	1717	625	2578	941	1663	6322	399
Hollingworth	825	11742	..	271	2939	2685	2310	4300	585
Hyde	3591	50314	9079	2204	13372	13079	13641	25754	1121

† Nine months' trading.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	373	71	23970	6627	538756	51565	5115	1 8	707	115	79 9 0
2	61	10	3787	886	99454	10695	1082	1 11	92	14	12 2 10
3	74	25	6073	2322	180376	26936	2246	2 7	339	73	21 5 5
4	353	166	25606	12319	562793	66385	7880	2 0	...	443	65 1 10
5	8	..	568	..	19188	2455	292	2 4	..	32	11 15 9
6	4	..	389	..	15291	1660	165	2 1½	..	21	5 2 1 6
7	4	..	284	..	7291	904	132	2 1	..	4	1 0 10
8	31	6	2288	462	53528	7450	971	2 1½	..	60	6 16 3
9	81	21	6089	2053	139042	16695	1926	1 11	..	87	21 14 9
10	170	53	14017	3759	275445	35449	4074	2 3	400	119	39 7 9
11	3	1	187	70	9325	1531	116	3 2	..	3	....
12	3	..	159	..	6975	531	39	2 1	..	1	0 8 8
13	13	2	1101	148	33211	4055	833	1 11½	..	19	2 19 4
14	62	23	3627	1832	105533	9597	1626	1 7	195	..	12 6 8
15	119	20	6706	2073	194175	26636	2734	2 3	..	50	74 31 9 2
16	297	37	16506	2715	394587	49188	5578	2 2	489	90	64 9 11
17	9	1	905	26	19962	1830	215	1 8½	..	4	2 8 8
18	5	2	339	139	9452	1282	75	2 6	..	7	1 8 3
19	1	..	73	..	990	70	6	1 0	..	..	0 7 6
20	134	24	8350	1693	144909	17211	1572	2 0	144	510	22 4 2
21	91	19	6544	1409	164168	18697	1828	2 3	205	631	18 16 2
22	12	2	774	143	27493	4225	343	2 5½	..	9	3 15 4
23	12	..	690	..	17958	1321	176	1 9	..	17	2 15 2
1920		483	129032	38676	3019902	356428	39024	..	205	2469	2296 414 4 11
24	..	110	..	8148	49943	4634	441	..	700	..	49 2 0 0
25	..	111	..	7504	27108	579	..	..	..	..	2 0 0
26	..	29	..	1279	7158	531	61	1 0	44	..	5 1 1 0
..		250	..	16931	84209	5744	502	..	744	..	54 5 1 0
1920		733	129032	55607	3104111	362172	36526	..	949	2469	2350 419 5 11
1923		487	116153	39355	2739228	367739	38486	..	176	2391	4943 381 11 7
..		246	..	16753	80927	5423	461	..	700	7	51 5 1 0
1923		733	116153	56108	2814155	373162	38947	..	876	2398	4994 386 12 7
1	298	49	26159	4931	520580	69179	5803	2 9	676	279	130
2	195	26	12790	4293	258616	30404	4023	2 1½	..	704	35 36 8 5
3	5	..	316	..	6806	683	47	2 0	..	..	....
4	3	..	274	..	8234	927	52	2 7½	..	..	....
5	21	3	1329	375	34811	4657	693	2 4½	..	..	19 3 11 0
6	81	17	6057	1440	131239	17948	2380	2 2½	..	170	89 18 6 5
7	45	6	3569	653	91448	9972	1449	2 0½	..	20	54 8 14 4
8	204	53	16536	3630	312411	42192	4136	2 2	..	145	777 38 11 4
9	631	76	44279	8926	726837	73552	3167	1 9½	..	1952	188 99 17 1
10	310	52	25691	6431	440087	48879	8023	2 0	..	739	268 61 19 1
11	76	24	5570	1719	144633	19647	3015	2 6	..	252	156 17 8 0
12	34	12	3100	882	72032	8794	1913	2 1	..	20	37 8 19 1
13	14	4	1060	270	30841	3540	203	2 4	..	..	11 2 16 6
14	12	2	751	188	20754	2675	315	2 2½	..	14	24 2 18 6
15	18	4	1559	374	30858	3446	545	1 11½	..	17	17 4 1 3
16	75	26	6514	1385	125978	12910	2082	1 11½	..	156	97 18 0 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
MANCHESTER DISTRICT—Con		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Manchester and Salford ..	21438	252022	12330	3383	61166	84134	51930	92209	4194
New Mills ..	2021	58250	3433	3462	11532	10980	19574	25356	1843
New Moston ..	698	8694	316	801	2109	2172	1076	5804	..
Pendleton ..	31563	462221	19804	22627	124467	129427	79665	171183	1301
Prestwich ..	5234	76465	46159	2324	22242	33078	66858	7535	1325
Rhodes ..	1281	22694	1498	556	5101	1918	7621	10160	1463
Roe Green—Worsley ..	237	9169	1576	364	1570	1004	3035	5870	57
Swinton—Industrial	864	8521	2012	918	4978	3322	1885	2163	612
Moorside ..	993	11577	2438	559	4931	3337	3983	4182	569
Whaley Bridge & Buxton ..	2554	44494	6463	2064	11137	6017	10859	29259	1539
Whitefield and Unsworth ..	1094	18626	93	325	3532	4726	4242	6852	300
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	149379	2074486	242627	107011	575320	667566	516098	858904	34803
Distrib. Federation— Hadfield & Hol'ngw'th C'l	h2	1000	..	507	375	107	..	1180	210
Productive Societies— Co-op. Sundries Manufac- turing (Droylsden)....	520	25153	6594	5326	23637	11734	..	4817	6819
Eccles Manufacturing ...	226	14511	7173	3454	12177	11162	..	1225	2882
Hyde Co-op. Laundry ...	7	3564	1960	..	903	4561	..	496	41
M'chester & Dist. Laund'y	h15	20970	9489	100	30097	..	..	2476	1924
Manchester—Newspaper	357	11731	5341	186	5148	8597	..	3184	5244
„ Printing ..	737	23299	..	22973	35105	12848	..	14600	19109
Produc. Soc's. Total for 1917	1862	99228	30557	32039	76970	78999	..	26798	36019
District Total for 1917	151243	2174714	273184	139557	652065	746672	516098	886891	71032
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	146092	2208355	214369	110072	483788	658164	556772	1070387	35209
Distrib. Federation Total for previous year (1916) ...	h2	1000	..	497	190	110	..	1420	116
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	1812	95192	28451	23910	61848	79436	..	17157	26646
District Total for previous year (1916)	147906	2304547	242820	135079	545826	737710	556772	1088964	61971
No. 10—NORTH-EAST LAN- CASHIRE DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Accrington and Church ..	10875	284539	55411	8409	61738	43740	158387	90923	..
„ Provident ..	841	5954	6793	45	6915	6714	885	1030	..
Barnoldswick ..	1818	28638	5739	1045	11487	15894	9689	2500	854
Barrowford Industrial ...	714	9701	1747	621	2704	2203	1496	6908	141
Billington and Whalley ..	740	17467	4268	2014	5155	7869	3098	9247	575
Blackburn—Daisyfield ..	4151	82190	5522	2373	13786	28375	30420	14289	2109
„ Excelsior ..	415	3594	..	39	924	488	1581	1461	526
„ Grimshaw P. ..	5120	59677	250	3275	8936	18472	15349	25575	..
„ Industrial ..	4466	60448	11793	2051	18302	31819	21415	4824	2128
„ Livesey	495	4981	326	410	1512	1920	2025	370	451
Brierfield ..	1589	22607	11182	1115	11298	9832	10024	6406	474
Burnley ..	19730	265691	17584	13782	114937	88899	77378	55276	2422
Clayton-le-Moors ..	2676	54270	38810	3225	11100	6855	59618	21256	1057
Clitheroe ..	1789	23487	6701	2878	7960	16122	1895	10377	688
Colne ..	6639	109577	13966	4430	42272	47108	33009	20540	1578
Darwen Industrial ..	9459	367805	10693	13901	31932	58384	210886	106658	240
„ Provident ..	1900	20144	4754	1202	6901	14271	..	8786	..
Earby ..	1091	21569	1538	1353	11419	4781	2437	9158	282
Great Harwood ..	3569	80498	14481	2801	26341	23954	43301	12671	2076
Higham ..	163	1892	..	135	638	261	150	1308	..
Huddlesden ..	302	9032	2645	..	3958	1471	4021	3868	209

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
17	449	90	32690	6688	608934	67954	10802	2 0	857	283	110 2 0
18	58	10	4644	858	92438	11751	1885	2 2½	156	148	14 15 10
19	13	2	1307	154	27043	2015	326	2 0½	72	6	3 10 10
20	848	143	74565	14867	1128167	128553	18112	2 0	493	161	13 10
21	106	30	9226	3271	158756	15565	3340	2 0	233	25	27 7 6
22	18	4	1563	422	43148	3529	880	1 6	18	6	10 3 0
23	5	3	398	315	11513	1696	383	2 3	30	11	1 2 8
24	22	3	1468	255	36273	4880	389	2 10½	28	11	3 19 0
25	22	3	1248	562	36271	5132	519	2 0	15	4	16 11
26	71	17	4778	1084	114388	14102	1693	2 2	190	39	12 13 8
27	21	3	1717	166	37891	3265	792	1 6½	27	5	12 4
3655		662	289158	64139	5251827	608747	76026	..	704	6006	2978 673 15 10
28	5	..	473	..	17891	1547	50	2 0	..	..	3 3 0
29	..	150	..	9884	104148	8737	1235	0 6	585	64	5 0 0
30	6	78	745	4472	29551	1156	771	..	..	7	1 15 0
31	..	66	..	3585	8580	169	160	2 0	..	..	0 5 0
32	..	195	..	14710	30277	4582	1049	2 3	..	..	1 0 0
33	6	55	2051	4688	23635	2265	488	1 ..	..	42	15 0 0
34	53	416	6295	34091	163284	17787	1148	1 9	1401	401	12 10 0
65		960	9091	71980	359475	32431	4851	..	1986	..	514 35 10 0
3725		1622	298722	136119	5629193	642725	81827	..	2690	6006	3402 712 8 10
3468		749	248382	60398	4709033	730797	87669	..	754	6802	2701 650 6 7
6		..	456	..	16715	1967	50	..	..	5	....
57		1110	8023	67970	330943	26438	5111	..	2336	..	508 21 5 0
3531		1859	256861	128368	5056691	759202	92830	..	3090	6802	3209 671 11 7
1	236	99	14418	11432	396630	60482	11817	2 7	762	310	54 6 1
2	16	2	1180	32	23211	2216	248	2 2	..	6	3 13 1
3	32	22	2755	1286	76442	7866	1251	1 10	84	18	9 5 0
4	10	5	749	343	23362	3397	375	2 6	78	6	3 9 0
5	17	8	1323	538	32100	3972	655	1 11	46	34	3 15 0
6	99	34	7905	3026	147539	19809	3798	2 2½	..	77	21 13 4
7	5	..	420	..	20221	4113	161	..	..	4	....
8	98	47	7833	3305	167874	19414	2870	2 0½	..	69	25 2 0
9	119	33	7405	2434	144189	16502	2816	2 1	..	68	22 14 2
10	14	..	882	..	21768	2220	235	1 11	..	..	2 10 6
11	19	21	2380	1763	59211	6809	857	2 1½	147	13	7 12 6
12	378	243	23755	15121	631403	86471	10378	2 6	1908	216	96 0 2
13	29	27	2772	1577	93977	15030	2310	2 8	160	106	13 6 0
14	48	9	2821	597	67443	9325	892	2 9	121	40	9 0 0
15	142	84	11245	6421	284513	32398	4210	2 0½	375	96	33 0 5
16	183	80	10744	5131	308540	61073	14975	2 10½	620	..	46 17 6
17	..	..	2587	..	34537	4806	712	..	..	..	....
18	22	9	1500	818	43746	5987	895	2 4½	..	5	5 10 6
19	97	80	6934	5697	178792	25240	3559	2 7	180	60	18 11 9
20	2	..	165	..	5325	691	54	2 8	..	4	0 15 7
21	9	..	540	..	21586	3756	350	3 0	..	1	1 8 7

e Loss.

‡ Before deducting the loss of £265.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem. bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT—Con.										
a Lr. Darwen—Excelsior ..	209	3579	1273	29	560	1454	2077	1147	..	22
Fore Street ..	280	5809	3792	280	1044	4483	751	3414	..	23
Low Moor—Nelson Street	310	3341	..	272	970	..	..	3582	219	24
Nelson	10005	200411	23637	8094	49973	70175	72719	59325	1717	25
Oswaldtwistle	1898	49929	7716	2196	5489	4716	38124	14056	30	26
Padiham	2886	25895	5189	1169	9730	13849	4173	7069	1230	27
Rishton	1644	39875	29959	1465	6858	10721	24283	32821	..	28
Sabden Industrial	320	4219	1204	414	1470	302	184	4383	54	29
Trawden	386	4099	2116	435	954	2167	1043	2749	92	30
Wheatley Lane	161	3827	190	237	840	610	1038	2286	54	31
Winewall	305	4452	60	150	2086	1492	420	1013	129	32
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	90946	1878697	289339	79845	480198	539461	837876	554276	19335	
Productive Societies— Burnley Self-Help Manu. North-East Lancashire Laundries	309 13	8774 4509	21092 2350	385 200	16778 927	10894 6324	.. ..	474 432	7153 56	33 34
Produc. Socs. Total for 1917	322	13283	23442	585	17705	17218	..	906	7209	
District Total for 1917	97268	1891980	312781	80430	497903	556679	837876	555182	26544	
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>91927</i>	<i>1780605</i>	<i>257903</i>	<i>68249</i>	<i>417235</i>	<i>576116</i>	<i>847420</i>	<i>424893</i>	<i>18036</i>	
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>326</i>	<i>13268</i>	<i>20294</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>12689</i>	<i>18318</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>562</i>	<i>5187</i>	
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>92253</i>	<i>1793873</i>	<i>278197</i>	<i>68319</i>	<i>429924</i>	<i>594434</i>	<i>847476</i>	<i>425455</i>	<i>23223</i>	
No. 11—NORTH LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Bamber Bridge	896	6184	2548	475	3711	4138	2622	1196	240	1
Bentham	295	5198	124	173	1706	1244	378	2461	97	2
Blackpool	13311	191394	6588	4637	50497	61401	13449	89365	1950	3
† Fleetwood	3327	32351	4355	1173	13038	9969	9724	8010	..	4
Fylde—Kirkham	841	21666	3821	2189	4984	3816	2197	17325	933	5
Gregson Lane	124	1933	135	169	769	618	656	454	114	6
Higher Walton	213	2911	..	136	546	36	..	2889	..	7
Lancaster	13860	251357	11799	10322	48052	53820	44021	146512	1572	8
Leyland and Farlington..	2058	34557	4785	1346	10025	6636	6847	19199	..	9
Longridge	1490	25799	2488	1601	6643	4963	4651	15681	628	10
Preston	28523	252826	25054	26631	92913	74501	103050	71713	1362	11
Ribchester	205	3153	188	18	1225	690	1100	756	72	12
Southport	2138	18467	2188	2020	8636	7684	3973	5094	203	13
Walmer Bridge	466	4143	..	330	972	1640	250	2243	..	14
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	67657	851939	64073	51220	243727	321156	192918	382898	7171	
Productive Society— Blackpool Union Printers..	140	1139	1008	169	861	895	..	314	815	15
District Total for 1917	67797	853078	65081	51389	244588	282051	192918	383212	7986	
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>63214</i>	<i>859786</i>	<i>68307</i>	<i>55737</i>	<i>211833</i>	<i>231574</i>	<i>208125</i>	<i>421689</i>	<i>6831</i>	
<i>Productive Society Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>1124</i>	<i>1033</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>417</i>	<i>989</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>730</i>	
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	<i>63353</i>	<i>860910</i>	<i>69400</i>	<i>55906</i>	<i>212250</i>	<i>232563</i>	<i>208125</i>	<i>422100</i>	<i>7561</i>	

† Nine months' trading.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.										
						Net Profit.	Inter- est on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	£	£					£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	
22	4	..	273	..	7368	1491	184	4	0	..	..	..	1	8	2
23	3	..	271	..	11055	1305	219	2	7½	..	..	..	1	8	2
24	4	..	305	..	11485	2266	164	3	0	..	..	10	1	12	7
25	215	171	17523	14160	397465	46324	7792	2	1½	..	1035	72	51	3	2	
26	42	19	3022	1541	74979	10303	2059	2	2	..	137	42	9	9	2	
27	47	21	5021	1800	91399	11856	1182	2	6	..	284	45	14	11	8	
28	37	20	3196	1461	79192	10296	1534	2	4½	..	..	84	8	0	5
29	4	..	308	..	11701	1396	185	2	6	..	..	3	1	14	6
30	10	3	652	235	13672	1527	149	2	7½	..	..	2	2	0	5
31	3	..	246	..	7075	802	150	2	2	..	..	2	0	15	5
32	5	3	550	164	13116	1098	165	1	10½	..	..	2	1	11	8
			1949	1040	143680	78822	3500916	480241	77111	5935	1395	470	17	5
33	6	103	1284	6063	84449	1399	436	..	..	..	..	1	2	10	0
34	..	62	..	3692	7714	589	225	..	..	..	..	27	0	5	0
			6	165	1284	9755	92163	1988	661	28	2	15	0
			1955	1205	144964	88577	3593079	482229	77772	5935	1423	473	12	5
			1806	1123	129348	76734	2940082	449318	71065	..	685	5708	1308	472	9	5
			4	148	1042	9272	75424	2634	444	2	15	0
			1810	1271	130390	86006	3015506	451952	71509	..	685	5708	1308	475	4	5
1	18	1	1245	98	27867	3299	239	2	3	..	..	8	4	5	9
2	5	..	352	..	10098	1002	224	2	2	..	..	..	1	9	10
3	207	129	13291	10960	338846	33626	6700	1	10	..	402	94	59	10	2	
4	56	28	3839	1002	73559	7347	1094	2	0	..	150	58	16	15	4	
5	21	6	1556	338	39723	5719	1005	2	5½	..	69	5	4	5	7	
6	2	..	192	..	6763	981	75	2	11½	..	..	2	0	12	5
7	3	..	261	..	9118	1461	135	3	2	..	..	5	1	0	10
8	221	57	17543	4401	383795	46056	8675	2	1	..	500	179	68	10	8	
9	43	18	3105	1224	69692	9116	1151	2	3½	..	..	8	9	0	0
10	26	19	2095	1103	45958	5583	953	2	0	..	61	21	7	3	2	
11	446	110	27635	8888	752197	100219	9264	2	6	..	1000	103	142	5	6	
12	3	..	248	..	7080	782	135	2	3½	..	..	1	1	0	9
13	56	5	3279	612	69021	5113	794	1	7½	..	15	..	10	19	1	
14	8	1	468	76	14280	1925	186	2	9	..	..	3	2	4	0
			1115	374	75159	28792	1847997	222229	30630	2197	487	329	3	1
15	..	18	..	1443	3518	131	53	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	0
			1115	392	75159	30235	1851515	222360	30683	2197	487	330	8	1
			1084	406	69896	30776	1641067	236871	30930	2352	2231	310	12	0
			..	16	..	1196	2917	e16	53	1	5	0
			1084	422	69896	31972	1643984	236871	30983	2352	2231	311	17	0

‡ Before deducting the loss of £16.

e Loss.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
No. 12—NORTH LONSDALE DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Ambleside	406	2061	538	31	1686	1083		579	490	1
Barrow-in-Furness	15735	225179	12650	14830	83229	68710	20195	103189	1257	2
a Broughton-in-Furness ..	178	1764	189	150	226	353	1170	391	92	3
Carnforth	2110	41203	3282	2312	12100	9653	12373	14407	1771	4
Coniston	268	2626	91	5	591	983		1087	303	5
Dalton-in-Furness	3190	65640	195	2357	21344	13337	5918	33702	1092	6
Hawkshead	339	3966	195	255	1746	1410	100	717	804	7
Kendal	2758	28184	109	1095	11203	10695	1147	7213	884	8
Kirkby-in-Furness	532	11580	805	680	4083	3613	2397	3672	364	9
Langdale	321	4537	263	252	1342	1072	294	2230	625	10
Leven Valley	237	3642	947	63	1759	430	1968	450	286	11
a Lower Holker	223	2952		121	1406	655	505	575	231	12
Millom	2172	39494	210	2763	12183	5524	4180	22566	1429	13
Sedbergh (New)	140	610	1	119	466	11		340	41	14
Swarthmoor & Ulverston ..	2749	54337	258	3114	17937	13866	10777	17800	1315	15
b Windermere	289	2430	75	33	737	858		1075	269	16
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	31647	490214	19808	28189	172038	133153	61024	209993	11253	
Supply Association— a Furness and South Cum- berland	349	1995		1140	1757	101	169	1372	2830	17
District Total for 1917	31996	492209	19808	29329	173795	133254	61193	211365	14083	
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	30159	484397	15336	28835	142911	139003	51885	241557	10482	
Supply Association Total for previous year (1916)	349	1995		1140	1757	101	169	1372	2830	
District Total for previous year (1916)	30508	486392	15336	29975	144668	139104	52054	242929	13312	
No. 13—OLDHAM DIST.—										
Retail Distrib Societies—										
Ashton-under-Lyne	5972	124770	7421	13531	44062	37518	42577	28880	2143	1
Crompton (Shaw)	3676	40270	16582	1089	14263	22825	21286	5226	113	2
Delph	763	21185	1382	591	4408	2934	8494	9007	699	3
Diggle	326	7307	3152	345	2190	2659	3801	2646	259	4
Dobcross	199	2000	179	83	1007	84		1383	113	5
Grasscroft	370	5516	3020	247	1512	1943	1401	4065	412	6
Greenfield	838	25411	7472	622	2779	3111	19292	9852	164	7
Higher Hurst	1438	17397	14473	2628	6125	6700	4122	20437	243	8
a Hurst Brook	983	8563	9573	1113	3834	6013	2509	8793		9
Junction—Delph	265	4292	50	145	1959	716		2216	523	10
Middleton and Tonge	4197	95922	11028	8461	19697	19961	26567	54909	1446	11
Mossley	3210	73526	6875	5285	10038	7030	9369	64315	353	12
Oldham Equitable	14687	275056	18975	16478	69537	62305	77814	116467	163	13
" Industrial	22503	406348	29661	21818	66767	36457	113527	279011		14
Royton	2576	30317	4881	361	10591	13051	10971	6643	49	15
Stalybridge	4957	95419	3771	2747	14651	16661	10084	67645	80	16
Uppermill	1381	33811	1104	1394	5587	3628	3226	25753	1058	17
Waterloo	923	20972	3541	1448	4146	6422	8324	8650	769	18
District Total for 1917	69264	1288082	143140	78389	283153	249118	363294	712898	8587	
District Total for previous year (1916)	60198	1259715	146347	85288	243399	255847	404364	697188	7250	

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divid- end per £.	Bouns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Charita- ble Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s d.
1	4	1	438	147	6995	40	..	..	..	..	0 10 6
2	381	133	32513	11422	747914	77372	10349 1 8½	..	..	40	78 0 0
3	3	..	148	..	2273	413	84 3 0	3	..	..	..
4	53	11	3696	595	78177	8916	1458 2 1½	..	99	24	10 15 0
5	4	..	255	..	6400	661	113 2 0	..	..	2	..
6	88	33	4650	2077	156693	14122	2879 1 8	..	..	58	18 18 0
7	6	2	382	78	10020	700	173 1 9	..	..	5	1 11 0
8	57	7	4041	489	77571	7464	1149 1 7	..	..	175	14 7 0
9	9	4	836	169	22944	3084	219 2 2	..	14	24	2 12 6
10	6	2	359	121	9704	978	177 3 0	..	..	..	1 14 4
11	6	..	378	..	8968	893	147 1 9	..	..	..	1 2 4
12	3	..	240	..	5951	646	120 2 4	..	..	4	1 6 0
13	54	23	3541	1758	104616	7509	1781 1 6	..	..	65	10 19 4
14	2	..	140	..	2696	126	28 1 8	..	..	..	0 15 5
15	56	33	4463	2002	111352	15192	1873 2 0	..	171	..	13 10 0
16	5	..	296	..	6115	555	70 1 8	..	..	3	....
737		249	56375	18858	1358380	138631	20660	..	3	284	400 156 1 5
5		..	450	..	25494	1198	92 1 0	..	..	..	....
742		249	56825	18858	1383883	139829	20752	..	3	284	400 156 1 5
704		251	47685	17014	1215427	175617	20220	..	3	311	302 147 9 3
..		..	..	450	25494	1198	92	..	..	..	....
704		251	47685	17464	1240921	176815	20312	..	3	311	302 147 9 3
1	99	79	13851	6405	284298	33502	5339 1 6	..	348	172	30 4 2
2	77	24	7328	1874	142612	15085	1608 2 6½	..	178	39	18 0 10
3	11	12	1116	776	31906	4105	755 2 0½	..	39	19	3 18 0
4	7	1	653	31	18591	1867	286 1 8½	..	12	9	1 13 8
5	4	..	324	..	17042	797	87 2 3	..	..	..	0 19 1
6	8	1	536	35	14967	1395	217 1 9½	..	1	5	1 17 0
7	15	2	1411	50	34228	4538	906 2 0½	..	40	33	4 6 0
8	37	7	2632	494	71149	7585	840 2 0	..	111	28	7 7 1
9	17	4	1490	80	39215	5474	298 3 2	..	..	13	5 2 5
10	4	1	435	38	18044	1548	164 1 11½	..	8	3	1 8 0
11	103	56	9674	3721	206427	24097	3817 2 0	..	160	1017	21 7 2
12	52	21	4641	1212	119067	15973	3097 2 2½	..	144	121	16 7 6
13	290	80	21868	7062	471387	52852	10740 2 0	..	1389	289	75 8 6
14	434	156	32106	8885	802860	105839	14153 2 3	..	2500	463	112 19 1
15	61	10	5312	574	104458	9892	1212 1 11	..	200	51	12 9 4
16	102	36	7394	2182	197547	26502	4040 2 5½	..	..	80	23 10 0
17	23	1	1970	54	49669	6657	1264 2 2½	..	20	156	6 17 4
18	30	7	1827	715	48700	5647	902 2 6	..	40	12	4 14 9
1374		408	114568	34188	2672170	323355	49725	..	..	5190	2510 348 9 11
1418		550	103367	32679	2450293	392265	46870	..	..	6033	5 71 338 9 9

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
No. 14—ROCHDALE DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
*Bagslate									
Brooksbottoms	225	3107	2260	400	1017	222	1982	2588	362
Bury	14651	348360	3382	27718	48275	44083	69327	240656	344
Firgrove	197	1996	224	229	491	762	..	1533	107
aHealey	475	6898	875	2787	1062	260	286	9706	218
Heywood	5872	89870	1205	8058	22482	15592	10359	50049	..
Lane Bottom	83	611	254	130	550	485	..	163	70
Littleborough	2731	40539	6751	1568	18485	15437	11362	10496	892
aMillgate	312	2540	329	554	1045	1182	..	1306	542
Milnrow	300	2729	173	316	941	855	1183	1024	147
Conservative	908	8047	1348	1346	5011	273	1278	5569	30
New Hey Industrial	461	4463	2930	157	4965	1724	..	1098	628
Rochdale Equit. Pioneers	22257	380355	7009	16968	67126	42571	79631	53578	1880
Provident	15633	223030	9920	18562	34513	25988	56674	56340	..
Shawforth	348	3371	481	967	1072	1304	..	2651	276
Smallbridge Conservative	325	5760	27	498	726	216	4225	1650	22
Smithy Bridge	269	7184	630	271	1500	1068	3171	2843	138
Summerseat and Brooks- bottoms	223	3400	2303	231	1598	950	1379	2403	250
Tottington Equitable	515	10499	1803	3091	1546	2329	4159	8544	..
Industrial	1380	27981	2545	1683	5415	6456	2742	19727	621
aWardle	213	6636	609	584	705	736	3370	3456	..
Whitworth	1022	15203	1040	811	6710	3827	2179	6158	53
Woolfold	794	14921	39	813	3385	1190	6720	5608	..
Retail Soc. Total for 1917	39194	1207500	46137	87742	228680	168119	266027	787766	6589
Productive Society—									
Rochdale and District Laundry	h20	7000	8252	..	1178	14777	..	43	184
District Total for 1917	39214	1214500	54389	87742	229858	182896	266027	787809	6773
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)									
Productive Society Total for previous year (1916)	h20	7000	7917	..	604	14888	..	40	79
District Total for previous year (1916)	39947	1242938	48579	32368	219408	184434	423494	661534	10166
No. 15—ROSSENDALE DIST.									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bacup	3715	85755	9735	6607	15728	14001	9930	62670	6648
Cawl Terrace	1002	13577	306	1458	1609	1443	5910	7776	198
Crawshawbooth	822	31386	578	1109	6494	3168	789	23393	895
Edenfield	329	8759	294	256	1540	1195	2773	4182	39
Haslingden	3610	61435	29985	6590	16216	21282	22050	42357	579
Helmshore	433	11086	2024	704	3300	2830	4466	3940	202
Love Clough	387	12100	1060	862	2082	786	3014	9046	297
Lumb	132	1082	203	89	1052	360	..	247	100
Ramsbottom Industrial	3209	62627	24360	5949	20923	16241	24185	35707	2184
Rawtenstall Conservative	1235	10949	1486	2516	4236	4487	4502	4159	272
Stacksteads	568	2311	3581	286	3731	2097	701	666	774
†Tunstead	397	2761	266	87	1378	693	427	709	723
Turn	77	1145	..	70	216	199	294	659	6
Water Peace and Safety	186	2188	444	120	1239	487	..	1119	92
Waterfoot	646	5794	4027	241	5042	4111	1264	1081	608
Whitewell Bottom	443	5496	..	511	1115	824	500	3693	587
District Total for 1917	17191	318451	78349	27455	85901	74213	80805	201413	14204
District Total for previous year (1916)	16373	323614	67356	27172	70165	74423	100982	193604	12211

* No data available.

† Amalgamated with Stacksteads Society.

h Societies.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1											3 15 8
2	3	1	253	65	9791	1238	133	1 8	..	3	1 2 1
3	281	137	18098	9701	496110	73354	15365	2 3	760	394	73 4 9
4	2	..	195	..	6695	977	71	2 9	..	4	0 18 4
5	4	1	415	24	18508	3277	273	4 0	6	21	2 9 8
6	127	39	10019	3225	219145	25825	3621	2 1½	353	166	29 3 11
7	1	..	90	..	2898	357	30	3 2	..	1	0 8 4
8	80	29	5841	2551	123106	13340	1903	2 2½	..	40	13 17 3
9	3	4	302	224	11737	1809	107	3 2	27	3	1 12 6
10	4	..	309	..	9693	1241	136	..	..	1	1 10 0
11	14	..	1009	..	37497	5467	346	3 5	..	13	4 6 9
12	11	..	982	..	31925	2451	189	3 4½	..	5	2 6 3
13	315	140	24926	10149	610580	94586	14859	2 6½	934	42	114 10 10
14	179	69	17672	5328	351228	57648	8559	2 6	..	..	....
15	4	..	351	..	12240	1242	140	2 0	..	5	1 17 0
16	3	..	245	..	9238	1860	233	4 0½	..	3	....
17	4	..	383	..	12481	1704	286	2 11½	..	6	1 6 0
18	3	1	265	123	10541	1516	151	2 6	..	4	1 2 0
19	7	..	483	..	22999	3294	427	2 10	..	..	2 12 0
20	20	8	1947	558	48017	6456	1103	2 6	60	26	....
21	2	..	172	..	9076	1677	272	3 8	..	3	1 2 6
22	19	13	1337	639	45019	6225	626	2 10	87	11	5 1 8
23	12	1	1119	19	27049	4066	673	2 5½	42	20	4 1 8
24	1098	443	86413	32606	2125573	309610	49503	..	2269	771	266 9 2
	..	74	..	5283	12112	1203	280	1 9	..	..	....
	1098	517	86413	37889	2137685	310813	49783	..	2269	771	266 9 2
	1062	449	73617	30578	1873042	323038	48509	..	2370	989	253 9 8
	..	76	..	3859	8990	1078	280	..	..	..	....
	1062	525	73617	34437	1882032	324716	48789	..	2370	980	253 9 8
1	80	49	6022	3490	164369	22085	3543	2 6	288	104	18 13 4
2	13	4	1161	266	42345	4529	600	1 10½	46	15	4 18 4
3	16	6	1111	293	37594	6931	1351	3 3	..	11	4 3 4
4	3	3	411	149	12177	1099	356	2 2	..	7	1 12 4
5	65	45	4570	3962	136858	16423	2435	2 0	381	61	16 13 6
6	8	..	690	..	20440	3055	439	2 9	..	31	2 13 6
7	5	..	539	..	16734	3352	468	3 5	31	*8	1 19 2
8	2	..	191	..	6330	598	51	1 9	..	4	0 13 9
9	70	22	6052	2088	129004	14862	2505	2 0	89	75	15 12 6
10	20	4	1426	395	38071	5163	443	2 5½	..	32	6 1 6
11	8	1	674	176	16332	1133	110	1 6	..	8	2 14 9
12	5	..	490	..	9308	808	127	1 6½	..	3	1 10 2
13	1	..	110	..	3319	617	58	3 6	..	..	0 8 9
14	2	1	239	78	8528	516	113	0 11½	..	7	1 1 4
15	16	2	1307	137	26626	1913	295	1 2½	..	10	3 8 5
16	8	2	653	123	21372	2063	267	1 8	..	23	2 4 7
322		139	25655	11157	689407	85747	13161	..	835	309	84 9 3
317		146	22719	10911	591104	91657	12554	..	1086	476	80 1 5

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 16—SOUTH YORKSHIRE DISTRICT—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib Societies—									
Bakewell	351	898	182	315	788			673	122
Barnsley	50148	871187	25663	18281	269305	219824	217780	315233	18030
Brightside and Carbrook.	36704	407346	38021	19424	152638	153060	37133	186254	11152
Chesterfield	5272	35220	11521	3247	23647	9562	12268	9975	1718
Clown	1498	24314	2795	1076	6924	4202	6987	12109	474
*Conisborough									
Denaby Main	885	27537	640	6701	2469	1726	3524	29503	476
Doncaster	17486	195928	8813	15142	63752	92140	24519	54938	1359
Eckington	686	5759		415	2514	569	639	2712	580
Goole	3500	22004	24	3748	10474	7234		9738	265
Handsworth Woodhouse.	2546	28839	1919	2843	15610	10540	3874	8985	2222
Hasland	1051	7187	1112	519	4303	2856	554	1971	393
Heath and Williamthorpe	502	3844	1020	1099	4366	308	1446	1282	591
Killamarsh	885	14961	1992	1475	5088	3542	1615	9853	321
Kilnhurst	1264	23506	1435	1962	6485	3458	3045	16856	86
Masbro'	12952	201788	8317	13912	73848	71140	33362	73438	7674
Matlock Bank	1056	7767	962	726	6966	3546		848	1034
Oughtonbridge	595	4511		595	2497	1267	293	2747	1001
Oxcroft	309	2509	175	457	2888	512		739	270
Pilsley	881	8985	651	2504	7790	4608		1174	665
Pontefract	9758	48685	28	5366	21987	13751	2009	22297	699
Scunthorpe	5498	38405	6798	2794	20486	16413	6201	12299	818
Sheffield and Ecclesall...	28575	187474	20745	13385	109710	68455	14757	65023	3006
dStaveley Town	1318	2388		1502	7375	5140	7497	5711	1317
Stocksbridge	2999	56270	178	2093	21337	10682	14819	24237	13
Tideswell	223	1069		132	646	21		667	111
Worksop	4690	86518	2532	4079	25482	22864	34372	23302	2872
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	91562	2314899	135523	123792	869375	727420	426604	892562	57269
Productive Society—									
*Sheffield Trade Union									
Sheep Shear Manufg...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
District Total for 1917	191562	2314899	135523	123792	869375	727420	426604	892562	57269
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	181731	2156295	112983	118054	787510	718038	447479	950999	47956
Productive Society Total for previous year (1916)	66	1750	1682	6200	4013	7529	..	1329	..
†District Total for previous year (1916) ..	181797	2158045	114665	124254	791523	725567	447479	958328	47956
WHOLESALE SOCIETY—									
Co-op. Wholesale Society	1.			11.					
	1192	2981133	3956195	8906280	6187145	2927350	4637	1396976	2188376
Wholesale Society Total for previous year (1916)	1189	2653774	4455517	2275078	5135546	2573718	6256	2246665	2349442

* No recent figures available. † Includes Sheffield Trade Union S.S. Mnfg. figures.

1. Societies representing 2,748,277 individual members.

11. Exclusive of 2,000 ordinary shares of £10 each (paid up) in the Manchester Ship Canal Company; 7,500 shares of £1 each (paid up) in the Gisland Convalescent Home; 5,500 shares of £1 each (paid up) in the British Cotton-Growing Association; and £8,000 (paid up) in the North-Western Co-operative Convalescent Homes Association.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							Subscriptions.		
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.			
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.
1	4	287		6216	539	30	1 6	..	..	..	..	1 16	8	
2	950	342	67990	32722	2140555	228085	40769	1 11	..	1762	11229	245	9	7
3	1091	182	71968	18589	1396366	137610	18670	1 9	..	440	447	184	8	0
4	104	8	7154	801	174168	13103	1625	1 1 1/2	..	312	20	26	1	0
5	30	3	2337	118	71263	6271	1131	1 5 1/2	..	..	9	7	3	6
6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	24	..	1791	..	43259	9576	1366	4 9 1/2	..	105	..	3	4	5 0
8	360	107	24702	6195	532249	53102	9261	1 7	649	737	45	86	0	6
9	11	..	842	..	24156	1915	244	1 4	..	12	11	3	1	7
10	72	7	4504	554	91735	7912	1003	1 5 1/2	..	30	12	18	4	8
11	50	16	4033	600	108792	12348	1366	1 10	..	116	20	11	6	8
12	28	..	1736	..	42832	3674	349	1 4	..	..	8	5	5	2
13	16	5	989	370	23844	2859	168	1 6	..	..	18	1	17	2
14	24	1	1928	71	43315	4285	697	1 6 1/2	..	81	..	4	10	2
15	25	1	1661	115	64537	9253	1057	2 5	..	38	42	6	7	6
16	361	51	22922	4662	512008	50783	8820	1 10 1/2	..	486	340	63	9	0
17	20	4	1677	276	32361	2867	337	..	..	33	29	3	0	0
18	11	..	796	..	27010	2097	220	1 9	..	..	40	2	16	10
19	9	..	657	..	18861	1747	105	1 9	32	..	2	1	9	6
20	27	2	2059	132	48678	1261	405	1 9	..	13	8	4	8	6
21	171	12	10550	754	314301	28876	2118	1 8	..	..	11	46	7	8
22	128	13	7727	943	185311	15173	1598	1 5	..	60	23	23	10	0
23	611	91	45819	8859	821679	69248	8652	1 5 1/2	..	175	457	143	12	0
24	32	..	1700	..	54147	7957	826	2 6	..	47	..	7	17	2
25	68	17	5136	1777	133813	14513	2653	1 5	..	36	40	14	13	6
26	4	..	208	..	6300	581	50	1 9	..	4	2	..	..	..
27	115	23	7748	1259	195177	18855	3984	1 6	..	133	266	23	8	10
28	4346	885	298081	78797	7117933	710490	107454	..	681	4694	13082	940	10	2

	4346	885	298891	78797	7117933	710490	107454	..	681	4694	13082	940	10	2
29	4301	891	249567	70031	6084328	719659	96138	..	762	4959	10101	869	4	9
	..	..	..	5241	11076	1121	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4301	891	249567	75272	6095404	720780	96138	..	762	4959	10101	869	4	9
20	3695	III, 19082	425825	III, 1558044	57710133	1315155	143703	0 3	..	..	5719	600	0	0
	3542	18673	389673	1430051	52230074	1794694	121324	..	..	147	6231	600	0	0

III. Including Purchasing Depôts, Shipping Departments, Creameries, Building Departments, &c.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
SPECIAL SOCIETY— Co-operative Insurance.	3	20000	35604	834083	..	24840	65088	813845	19700	30
<i>Special Society Total for previous year (1916)</i>	3	20000	23804	736204	..	25030	71155	705203	16464	
ISLE OF MAN— Retail Distrib Societies - *Foxdale	530	4965	..	469	2320	1144	..	1967	644	31
Laxey Industrial	228	2122	..	177	1257	237	..	751	782	32
" Old Equitable ...										33
District Total for 1917	758	7087	..	646	3577	1381	..	2718	1426	
† Isle of Man Total for previous year (1916)	889	7255	..	896	3822	1506	..	3404	1272	

A Including Insurance and Sinking Funds. B Including 102 Full-time Agents. C Premiums.
 D On Members' Premiums. E Premiums paid in advance.
 F Excluding Agents' Commissions, £28,909.
 † Includes Foxdale Society.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur poses.	Co-operative Union.
30	B 480	..	£ F 37038	£ ..	£ C 456304	£ 28636	£ 1000	s. d. D 2 0	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ s. d. 25 0 0
	443	..	33100	..	380123	26430	1000	..	..	..	..	25 0 0
31												
32	11	6	598	243	18688	1558	230	1 10 1	..	..	..	....
33	6	2	347	96	7751	567	102	1 10	..	..	..	....
	17	8	945	339	26439	2125	332	..	..	..	..	....
	20	10	1040	430	26963	2676	341	..	..	..	4	....

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	House Property.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
No. 1—AIREDALE.....	48	160729	£ 2610611	£ 138374	£ 125985	£ 855755	£ 821335	£ 417384	£ 1206383	£ 29844
" 2—BOLTON.....	34	115529	2063300	196802	124513	489858	505978	566269	972008	17216
" 3—CALDERDALE.....	27	46525	793623	52971	60131	233649	208358	192544	380682	20077
" 4—CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES ..	40	139034	1 00026	144568	132432	529827	523186	87482	351818	13882
" 5—DEWSBURY.....	28	75565	1361669	62400	49717	303194	304368	254392	751607	28949
" 6—EAST YORKSHIRE ..	16	59927	489481	44894	31895	222514	242161	21024	206353	18304
" 7—HUDDERSFIELD ..	43	51225	839444	114713	42615	267545	198664	136674	487025	44070
" 8—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE AND DIST.	26	84685	1007921	160984	73305	375018	344404	167021	454148	76975
" 9—MANCHESTER.....	34	151243	2174714	273184	139557	6 2665	746672	516093	886691	71032
" 10—NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE ..	34	97268	1891980	312781	80430	497903	556679	837876	555182	26544
" 11—NORTH LANCASHIRE ..	15	67797	853078	65081	51389	244588	232051	192918	383212	7896
" 12—NORTH LONSDALE..	17	31996	492209	19808	29329	173795	133254	61193	211965	14083
" 13—OLDHAM.....	18	69264	1288082	143140	78389	283153	249118	363394	712898	8587
" 14—ROCHDALE.....	24	69214	1214500	54389	87742	229858	182896	266027	767809	6773
" 15—ROSSENDALE.....	16	17191	318451	78349	27455	45901	74213	80895	201413	14204
" 16—SOUTH YORKSHIRE..	28	191562	2314899	135523	123792	869375	727420	426694	892562	57269
WHOLESALE SOCIETY.....	1	1192	2981133	3956192	3806230	6187145	2927350	4637	1396976	218376
CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE..	1	3	20030	35604	34083	..	24840	65088	813845	19700
ISLE OF MAN.....	3	758	7037	..	646	3577	1381	..	2718	1426
Totals, 1917.....	453	1480707	23722608	6029757	5401685	12505320	9004328	4657420	11654895	2615297
Totals, 1916.....	456	1387906	23176266	6391477	4284461	10702382	8730228	5058222	12609117	2810958
Increase.....	..	72801	546342	..	1107184	1802388	274100	..	..	..
Decrease.....	3	..	..	361720	..	..	..	400802	954222	195661

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c.,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	422	1424063	2 474305	1919043	1184379	6140462	5888940	4585748	9340761	354032
Distributive Federations ..	5	60	29224	50	1767	33 9	1202	1778	23446	8516
Productive Societies	23	5038	215951	118868	67836	172637	161895	..	73475	91843
Supply Association	1	349	1995	..	1140	1757	101	169	1372	2890
Wholesale Society	1	1192	2981133	3956192	3806230	6187145	2927350	4637	1396976	218376
Special Society.....	1	3	20000	35604	34083	..	24840	65088	813845	19700
Total for Section, 1917	453	1480707	23722608	6029757	5401685	12505320	9004328	4657420	11654895	2615297

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c., of
given for purposes of comparison See also Introduction to

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Soc.s. (1916)..	423	1381308	20259789	1793762	1158745	5407006	5953882	4978645	9570419	352615
Distributive Federations ..	5	60	27260	85	1854	2724	1285	1851	27867	7345
Productive Societies	25	4997	213448	118909	63430	155899	176212	146	57591	82562
Supply Association	1	349	1995	..	1140	1757	101	169	1372	2830
Wholesale Society	1	1189	2653774	4455517	2275078	5135546	2573718	6256	2246665	2349142
Special Society	1	3	20000	23804	736204	..	25030	71155	705203	16464
Total for Section (1916)..	456	1387906	23176266	6391477	4284461	10702382	8730228	5058222	12609117	2810958

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co operative Union.		
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.	
1	3599	1465	247533	111674	5777383	740990	95157	60	3425	2582	784	16	3
2	2743	886	215586	65305	4561642	604892	74107	8	6883	3864	567	16	8
3	799	688	68328	54113	2014097	250674	32932	1155	1382	692	227	0	2
4	8177	472	214220	47733	4254085	476676	42129	646	2952	899	666	10	10
5	1351	474	103647	31737	2788248	323148	54687	..	3613	1823	372	17	3
6	1305	900	91058	26502	1778173	148613	23206	983	1625	824	273	5	2
7	1040	422	88399	34380	2342563	247873	36641	..	966	1192	251	13	1
8	1920	733	129032	55607	3104111	362172	39526	949	2469	2350	419	5	11
9	3725	1622	298722	136119	5629198	642725	81827	2690	6006	3432	712	8	10
10	1955	1205	144964	88577	3593079	482229	77772	..	5935	1423	473	12	5
11	1115	392	75159	30235	1851515	222360	30683	..	2197	487	330	8	1
12	742	249	56825	18855	1383883	139829	20752	3	284	400	156	1	5
13	1374	498	114568	34188	2672170	323355	49725	..	5190	2510	348	9	11
14	1098	517	86413	37889	2137685	310313	49783	..	2269	771	266	9	2
15	322	139	25655	11157	689407	85747	13161	..	835	399	84	9	3
16	4346	885	298981	78797	7117933	710490	107454	681	4694	13082	940	10	2
17	3695	19082	425825	158804	57710133	1315155	143703	..	..	5719	600	0	0
18	480	..	37038	..	456304	28636	1000	..	..	..	25	0	0
19	17	8	945	339	26439	2125	332	..	..	..	..
	34803	29987	2722898	2421254	109888043	7418502	974577	7175	50755	42509	7500	14	7
	83718	30369	2379685	2254368	98295475	8282725	928627	8332	54344	46736	7062	6	10
	1085	..	343213	166886	11592568	..	45950	..	..	..	438	7	9
	..	382	..	..	..	864223	..	1157	3589	4227	..		

of various classes of Societies for Year 1917.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
30528	8801	2245270	704490	50720948	6007845	818353	3187	50755	35958	6806 2 7
15	11	1221	960	129130	8632	1422	..	..	1	4 3 0
80	2093	13094	157760	846034	57036	10007	3983	..	831	65 9 0
5	..	450	..	25494	1198	92	..	..	..	..
3695	19082	425825	1588044	57710133	1315155	143703	..	..	5719	600 0 0
480	..	37038	..	456304	286.6	1000	..	..	..	25 0 0
34803	29987	2722898	2421254	109888043	7418502	974577	7175	50755	42509	7500 14 7

various classes of Societies for previous Year (1916),

Statistics to tables showing increases of membership, &c.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
29648	9423	1944796	671786	44799153	6401162	794879	4127	54174	39723	6384 7 10
16	11	1183	1006	122502	9662	1254	..	..	7	1 0 0
69	2262	10423	151522	733129	49579	10078	4205	23	775	51 19 0
..	..	450	..	25494	1198	92	..	..	..	..
3542	18673	389673	1430064	52230074	1794694	121324	..	147	6231	600 0 0
443	..	33160	..	380123	26430	1000	..	..	..	25 0 0
33718	30369	2379685	2254368	98295475	8282725	928627	8332	54344	46736	7062 6 10

SCOTTISH

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of ABER-
DUMFRIES, EDINBURGH, ELGIN, FIFE, FORFAR, HADDINGTON, INVERNESS,
ROXBURGH, SELKIRK, and STIRLING, for 1917,

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—AYRSHIRE DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Ardrossan	1961	15779	4113	2256	7059	6098	1880	7802	4308 1
Auchinleck	1063	18370	5643	1244	8521	6537	552	9564	2012 2
Beith	888	14715	9471	1787	3865	3353	1457	17651	1147 3
Campbeltown	594	5621	67	440	2990	1397	1263	669	840 4
Carrick (Maybole)	1037	12999	1572	898	4315	4116	296	7014	1179 5
Carronbridge	217	1184	112	172	598	..	..	1014	135 6
Catrine	789	13032	113	1139	2299	2714	5763	4677	620 7
Creetown	100	307	200	163	182	408	..	295	142 8
Crosshouse (Kilmarnock) ..	1005	23747	1201	1511	4121	4779	519	19135	471 9
Dalbeattie	170	788	95	56	290	347	..	700	145 10
Dalmellington	630	11859	1148	631	3196	2757	..	9475	1552 11
Dalry	821	14866	2909	828	4381	6210	851	8434	590 12
Darvel	1170	33932	3792	2486	5981	6351	6615	24498	720 13
Dreghorn (Irvine)	816	27044	87	1012	4561	3319	4028	17939	90 14
Dumfries & Maxwelltown ..	2852	38374	19539	2601	11933	15082	..	31457	4418 15
Fergushill	187	3600	336	335	560	190	..	4 15	22 16
Galston	1318	47078	3941	2929	5926	10022	603	33120	3153 17
Glenbuck	139	3375	66	200	358	121	..	3518	.. 18
Hurlford	1085	21756	2869	1327	4669	4394	3771	14311	1040 19
Irvine and Fullarton	1477	22747	6929	2258	7178	4350	704	24230	20 20
Kilbirnie	1916	41452	3266	5821	13056	10001	4807	26160	4423 21
Kilmarnock Equitable ..	12276	215873	1489	12627	50003	57771	28100	107983	2085 22
Kilwinning	1410	27301	3714	2327	5214	9215	5049	15653	1189 23
Kirkconnel	323	3080	457	252	1229	2296	..	1076	525 24
Largs	97	405	811	122	298	380	..	584	152 25
Mauchline	648	14797	535	760	1988	850	3488	10436	990 26
Millport	126	975	185	95	321	4	..	931	133 27
Muirkirk	749	15772	5823	1475	4268	2796	600	16482	1073 28
New Cumnock	775	12040	1361	885	3049	3702	990	3130	339 29
Newmilns	1195	28251	10981	1166	9156	9217	3035	21204	2277 30
Old Cumnock	539	6699	12	353	2203	1373	312	3907	475 31
Patna	494	10328	122	808	1726	1440	400	8677	1070 32
Stenston	1550	26346	16798	2549	7400	5562	4740	32863	.. 33
Troon	1308	28011	1466	1152	6418	6866	1870	17059	1295 34
Wigtown	222	1675	286	76	1099	294	192	794	350 35
District Total for 1917	42062	764183	102619	54796	194781	194252	82090	511510	38980
Totals, previous year (1916)	39111	714128	99569	49125	178511	207810	76060	465074	35503

SECTION.

DEEN, ARGYLE, AYR, BANFF, BUTE, CAITHNESS, CLACKMANNAN, DUMBARTON, KINCARDINE, KINROSS, LANARK, LINLITHGOW, PEEBLES, PERTH, RENFREW, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.		Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Un.on.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	53	14	2995	1677	93397	10912	493	2 3½	..	..	44	9 2 8
2	28	29	2187	1948	66166	8661	791	2 4½	..	..	46	5 9 1
3	23	8	1259	847	47839	6114	542	2 4½	..	58	30	4 3 8	
4	13	11	646	877	19521	1874	251	1 9	..	6	35	2 15 10	
5	31	12	1884	901	45425	5143	572	2 0½	..	25	22	4 11 8	
6	4	..	204	..	5450	484	58	2 2	..	..	2	..
7	14	6	851	521	27074	3810	525	2 5½	..	23	22	4 0 3	
8	2	..	162	..	4247	480	16	2 3	..	..	5	0 10 0
9	28	17	1565	1707	59925	8359	881	2 5½	..	109	52	4 17 8	
10	3	..	147	..	5553	257	35	0 11½	..	..	2	..
11	18	7	1117	601	43247	5645	494	2 5	..	..	33	2 13 3
12	21	10	1583	758	47789	5345	470	2 2½	..	20	20	3 14 8	
13	28	23	1791	1772	53267	7980	1145	2 4½	..	33	86	5 18 3	
14	23	16	1367	1287	51953	6635	994	2 1½	..	74	82	3 19 3	
15	59	32	4537	2352	121953	19033	1784	2 10	..	..	72	14 18 5
16	7	2	326	247	14667	1986	159	2 6	..	..	13	0 18 9
17	46	24	2369	2149	87993	13634	1966	2 6	..	..	254	7 1 11
18	4	..	164	..	10790	1501	155	2 6	..	..	7	0 14 6
19	22	28	1709	2178	60546	8448	854	2 6	..	..	87	5 4 6
20	60	19	3765	2142	107940	10633	845	2 1½	..	170	86	6 15 11	
21	104	40	7643	3407	160481	21967	1335	2 5½	..	65	159	9 0 11	
22	381	147	20458	13865	514830	50985	9058	1 7	..	880	..	59 0 5	
23	49	26	2825	2077	89219	10947	1243	2 2	..	126	131	6 18 4	
24	10	..	697	..	20728	2159	102	2 0½	..	..	12	1 7 2
25	2	..	95	..	2854	247	19	1 8½	..	..	..	..
26	10	4	528	339	19110	29 4	550	2 4	..	..	29	3 4 10
27	3	..	167	..	4191	270	42	2 0	..	..	..	..
28	25	13	1476	1121	55369	7763	637	..	..	33	47	3 15 4
29	23	22	1308	1248	41865	5965	467	2 6½	..	25	17	3 15 3	
30	30	28	1913	1919	56579	6715	1060	2 3	..	..	66	6 4 2
31	14	..	709	..	25048	2531	299	2 0	..	..	5	..
32	14	6	960	485	37503	5211	450	2 8	..	..	17	1 4 7
33	46	17	2121	1722	87274	11251	1024	2 4½	..	11	97	7 10 0	
34	46	20	2726	1843	73555	9915	1281	2 4	..	51	23	6 5 0	
35	4	..	338	..	9724	1167	73	2 6	..	26	..	1 1 3	
1248			581	74592	49990	2173072	267601	30670	..	26	1709	1607	197 2 6
1212			592	64873	47425	1765688	251357	26352	..	24	1595	1963	185 1 3

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society or Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 2—BORDER COUNTIES DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Earlston	294	841	537	231	897	796	..	428	319
Galashiels United	2725	39112	4579	4879	15183	24907	..	16546	7573
†Gretna	1451	..	2997	..	5408	..	..	643	116
Hawick	4491	63444	9310	5764	30869	20585	..	38045	6913
Innerleithen	703	11852	2727	1784	5606	2447	1654	8883	1121
Jedburgh	399	2752	1 00	95	1474	2895	..	1965	654
Kelso	427	2482	841	103	669	1568	..	1905	385
Langholm	637	5173	2451	5 00	5056	2167	..	3030	925
Peebles	1070	21267	2215	2158	6949	6796	..	14814	2037
Riccarton Junction	84	956	..	44	507	4	..	519	346
Selkirk	1283	22665	4853	3125	9997	8615	2906	14729	2775
Walkerburn	352	6599	3000	1591	3422	1759	1276	6402	989
District Total for 1917	13916	177143	34110	20334	86037	72039	5896	107909	24153
Totals, previous year (1916)	12112	183824	31826	19444	73731	75264	5899	114865	21691
No. 3—CENTRAL DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Abbey Green	539	4723	..	341	3120	22	..	2114	1027
Auchenheath	552	5995	241	619	2976	1401	..	1798	1907
Bellshill and Mossend ...	2719	40622	5884	2865	21873	15875	2510	15266	3397
Blantyre	2350	36184	2334	3230	10828	23995	..	13654	2153
Burnbank	2285	34667	6919	4344	7653	6147	1493	34407	1606
Calderbank	420	12 11	6620	553	2049	867	380	5583	696
Carlisle	1261	21486	2347	1044	8658	4558	1139	143 2	2393
Carstairs Junction	419	1640	5681	47	2908	1443	649	2392	795
Chapelhall	829	2584	18116	1285	4917	2470	567	14758	1150
Chapelton	115	616	..	115	632	83	12	515	90
Clarkston	212	2561	359	309	946	379	268	1812	579
Cleland	745	5994	1274	671	2788	2672	750	2074	1086
Coalburn	1264	9849	3173	718	5233	4913	450	652	1491
Coatbridge	10068	22 583	2340	33444	72856	31365	26073	34314	26928
Crofthead	1193	35934	378	1709	10805	5724	2849	24840	..
Dalziel (Motherwell)	10885	26039	226312	17357	39193	18367	21413	219636	9227
Darnagail	124	869	175	386	376	89	..	1097	537
Douglas Provident	334	2952	818	264	1531	1789	345	572	300
„ Water	358	6337	921	380	1840	1107	225	4887	275
Dykehead and Shotts ..	2051	47394	3547	3277	11758	11386	3717	33679	568
*Forth Provident .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
*Glenboig .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Glengowan	295	862	3928	373	1524	457	..	4091	104
Glespin	80	1024	25	84	391	..	..	1003	12
Greengairs	156	1383	119	218	891	109	..	867	278
Hamilton Central	3791	58640	8952	4678	21546	15249	5316	35510	2990
„ Palace Colliery	497	3266	4841	650	1640	500	..	7624	584
Lanark	1681	32274	2354	1962	8665	10850	950	18358	890
Larkhall	1992	50782	6807	2279	8737	5696	1069	46066	4491
„ Victualling	1963	17895	43121	2558	12892	11160	451	33734	11136
Law	385	11042	60	330	2283	1087	..	9531	714
Leadhills	188	1059	..	545	1048	303	..	514	776
†Levensseat	42	136	76	92	..	..	..	315	..
Moffat Mills	130	603	2328	194	1040	403	331	1302	574
Newarthill	435	1246	6126	230	2303	1393	..	4395	461
Newmains & Cambusnethn	1709	23603	1521	4016	9882	7480	1035	11452	3444
Overtown	477	10506	748	435	4114	3000	791	4619	1164
Plains	233	2932	1610	210	1402	288	..	4255	190
Strathaven	649	4760	11162	1099	3787	2312	200	11782	259
Wanlockhead	298	3392	53	259	1807	982	306	1565	1120
Wishaw	4000	77601	6926	7342	23180	16507	3417	60518	3683
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	57824	815476	388205	100072	316512	212348	70696	791761	89075

* No r. cent figures available.

† Branch of S.C.W.S.

‡ In Liquidation.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.	Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s d.
1	4	2	261	235	6081	547	37	1 6	..	3	1 11 8
2	85	46	5715	3243	135510	21136	1688	2 10½	..	78	13 9 0
3	30	..	2589	..	57460	2022	..	2 0	..	..	..
4	124	96	8780	7055	216787	36182	2797	3 2	..	284	23 6 11
5	19	14	1231	1009	38435	6884	565	3 4	..	25	3 10 0
6	6	3	389	177	7922	860	117	2 0	..	2	1 13 10
7	7	4	306	288	8940	1050	115	2 6	..	..	2 0 3
8	17	6	1304	590	35083	5539	255	3 3	..	22	3 5 0
9	29	15	1798	1336	56018	8962	779	3 0½	..	67	4 10 9
10	2	..	164	..	4930	544	45	2 5	..	..	..
11	45	31	2959	1743	67529	10855	1119	2 10½	..	56	6 13 8
12	18	14	861	1249	27737	4618	255	3 0½	..	29	1 16 3
381		231	26352	16925	662412	99099	7772	..	..	104	61 17 4
390		240	22972	15403	559641	90096	7681	..	..	97	61 4 8
1	12	..	799	..	33478	5004	141	3 1	..	9	2 15 0
2	16	5	1246	334	39037	3656	204	1 8½	..	37	3 2 6
3	86	39	5440	3195	174000	22126	2020	2 0	..	306	13 8 3
4	101	35	6058	3077	172363	20720	1450	2 1½	..	264	11 5 0
5	94	26	5760	1543	168084	11967	682	2 1	..	193	10 14 4
6	11	1	844	60	41071	4754	59	2 2	..	20	1 19 11
7	26	14	2464	1149	85326	9033	857	2 2	..	45	6 5 0
8	13	12	797	754	31638	2304	71	1 6	..	14	1 19 3
9	24	5	1989	363	64356	7202	124	2 1½	..	39	4 2 1
10	2	..	96	..	4214	465	22	2 3	..	2	..
11	8	..	296	..	15701	2150	98	2 6	65	19	..
12	18	19	1153	1486	49999	5443	225	2 1½	..	..	3 13 0
13	29	22	1724	2542	53174	6130	356	2 3½	..	22	4 3 4
14	476	162	28018	14864	726940	97910	8493	2 2½	..	865	45 16 4
15	33	23	2265	1866	80890	12068	1541	2 7	..	59	5 15 8
16	500	170	31921	13912	770765	93389	1271	2 3½	..	200	53 3 1
17	4	..	299	..	12275	1517	20	2 5½	..	4	0 12 7
18	10	4	633	458	18119	842	72	..	..	2	1 2 10
19	10	2	652	345	24723	2175	236	1 6	..	5	1 10 9
20	80	61	4537	4474	163660	25907	2480	2 9	..	106	10 1 7
21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23	6	2	551	30	23251	3013	36	2 8½	..	6	1 6 2
24	3	..	128	..	5462	595	53	0 7	..	2	..
25	5	1	304	115	19390	2089	71	2 4	..	..	0 16 8
26	148	54	3486	3677	235671	25971	2663	2 0	..	322	19 2 8
27	20	1	1165	98	45963	6100	302	2 6	..	12	2 11 0
28	50	31	2884	2322	81335	11744	1408	2 6	..	252	3 13 0
29	51	40	4004	2360	127403	18650	2276	2 8	..	90	9 7 3
30	50	66	3916	5381	166274	21055	320	2 7½	..	25	7 4 9
31	12	..	1212	..	33908	3305	458	1 1	..	6	..
32	4	..	287	..	10389	1277	48	1 5	..	9	0 9 4
33	2	..	62	..	1326	170	4	1 9	..	..	0 4 0
34	4	..	253	..	11266	1321	120	2 2	..	9	0 14 0
35	11	5	852	219	31357	3390	62	2 1	..	33	2 4 6
36	79	36	4700	2789	123331	15723	968	2 4½	..	8	3 9 3
37	19	7	774	962	38583	4144	421	2 0½	..	31	2 1 8
38	6	..	303	..	17640	2337	128	2 6½	..	6	1 2 4
39	18	9	1024	665	28638	3639	525	2 3	..	6	3 4 6
40	5	1	361	104	13330	1532	130	2 9	..	1	1 10 10
41	127	92	6803	6954	260356	37960	3418	2 6½	..	210	19 5 0
2173		945	135054	76103	4003236	498767	33883	..	65	2638	269 17 5

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
CENTRAL DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Productive Societies—										
Chapelhall Fed. Baking...	7	1090	14577	1051	1845	4018	251	9948	648	42
Hamilton Baking	7	8203	48307	2982	4020	8869	658	46841	..	43
Produc. Socs. Total for 1917	14	9233	62884	4033	5865	12887	909	56789	648	
District Total for 1917	57838	824709	451089	104105	322977	225235	77605	848550	89723	
†Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	53185	795548	438941	93332	297785	224669	73925	919266	82494	
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	14	8351	59379	3642	8581	13616	940	53247	1543	
District Total for previous year (1916)	53149	803899	498320	96974	306366	238285	74865	972513	84037	
No. 4—EAST OF SCOTLAND DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Armadales	1543	45502	1249	8345	6819	7075	4029	38129	1601	1
Bathgate	8653	60692	23	3026	18106	13933	8849	32310	4279	2
Broxburn	2440	30560	3300	2936	12613	8767	1789	14278	5110	3
Edinburgh St. Cuthbert's	55580	712701	42007	237626	298442	241955	98478	571618	52639	4
Gavieside	101	1152	43	334	588	..	..	1189	166	5
Gorebridge	1796	36292	822	2864	12583	8015	3025	20396	3443	6
Haddington	1250	9365	192	2916	4590	7078	2425	3184	1200	7
α Hillwood	1642	20261	5573	10796	6515	11252	4597	14298	3101	8
Leith	9998	119552	24536	967	44895	48563	21754	67879	7116	9
Musselburgh & Fisherrow	6862	104764	11967	27686	32170	37854	5737	98208	17 07	10
Penicuik	2498	45798	3479	5022	15455	17502	4559	24792	5997	11
Portobello	1399	18356	2601	1778	7206	8212	6360	7856	1062	12
Prestonpans	1031	87-9	1162	4219	4942	4727	641	7456	19-8	13
α Rosewell	366	582	..	770	2129	25	..	1298	113	14
Tranent	3428	51644	7310	14405	30120	18562	17045	22750	1343	15
† West Barns	827	..	2317	..	2130	908	..	..	4 7	16
West Benhar	1669	49370	911	2278	12011	10614	3994	31774	856	17
West Calder	8625	152403	7230	21679	42540	21597	7853	121603	8215	18
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	104708	1467703	114722	351647	553794	465999	190535	10 8963	116663	
Productive Society—										
Edinburgh Printing	151	10000	6846	3000	1919	14168	..	334	4477	19
District Total for 1917	104859	1477703	121568	354647	555713	480167	190535	1079297	121140	
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	92957	1520512	117280	329199	462573	492234	184849	1247777	114934	
Productive Society Total for previous year (1916)	156	10000	..	3000	1240	14677	..	558	4013	
District Total for previous year (1916)	93113	1530512	117280	332199	463813	506911	184849	1248335	115947	
No. 5—FALKIRK DIST.—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Bo'ness	1764	32367	6425	2160	14208	13694	5105	11146	745	1
Bonnybridge	1245	29371	4098	1902	8053	6300	8063	14609	502	2
Camelon	1682	24588	5923	2628	12022	13925	3950	9116	1999	3
Carron	779	9856	2589	1649	4542	2090	590	7449	1487	4
Carronhall and Kinnaid.	153	2117	142	125	1413	9	..	1110	675	5
Condorrat	297	2599	48	415	985	198	..	2059	406	6
Cumbernauld	339	3056	753	439	1145	534	448	2914	123	7
Denny and Dunipace ...	1055	24226	2186	2846	5505	3439	4195	19046	673	8
Grahamston & Bainsford	3501	49180	4986	3981	20739	19031	3024	22348	2906	9
Grangemouth	1612	39964	1607	4438	8933	14094	1799	21312	3539	10
Kilgryth	1950	16071	7077	1595	12375	8502	700	8640	1086	11
Larbert	867	19762	2494	916	6903	3967	2301	11282	116	12

† Branch of S.C.W.S.

‡ Includes the figures for Forth Provident and Glenboig Societies.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Char- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
42	10	19	1026	2385	45469	5068	51	.	228	..	66	....
43	26	50	1744	6051	89455	6344	410	1 2½	..	..	64	2 0 0
	36	69	2770	8436	134924	11412	461	..	228	..	130	2 0 0
	2209	1014	137824	84539	4138160	510179	34344	..	293	2638	4786	271 17 5
	2010	944	113399	69767	3267706	514245	31948	..	..	2439	4197	245 5 5
	37	79	2240	8166	129898	12343	413	..	..	..	112	2 0 0
	2047	1023	115639	77933	3397104	527088	32361	..	..	2439	4309	247 5 5
1	54	49	3341	2729	127528	20666	1577	2 10	..	86	101	7 13 6
2	101	65	6448	4058	212322	32236	2414	2 10	..	66	53	18 13 8
3	86	33	5167	3008	140767	21968	1178	2 11½	..	85	131	11 6 0
4	2157	879	134470	68148	2450802	484591	24528	3 9½	..	478	1277	257 18 5
5	2	..	132	..	6054	1157	40	3 9	..	..	2	0 9 6
6	73	37	3505	2892	120344	23075	1212	3 8	..	..	20	9 2 0
7	34	23	1790	1315	49962	6996	530	2 8½	..	..	35	6 10 0
8	64	24	3599	2129	80319	15713	681	3 9½	..	..	22	....
9	289	112	19283	9033	400487	70672	5124	3 6	..	220	331	43 10 0
10	293	113	19166	10186	442606	88251	3512	3 9	..	100	101	33 3 7
11	96	47	4823	3602	143109	27277	1645	3 9	..	39	142	12 16 7
12	47	26	2779	2089	78839	14635	660	3 7½	..	..	23	7 5 10
13	35	9	1905	923	58016	10720	290	4 0½	..	..	49	5 0 0
14	9	3	666	324	22315	4161	30	4 0	..	..	1016	....
15	89	100	6609	6369	209121	32964	2002	3 4	..	25	58	16 16 8
16	18	..	821	..	23044	3365	76	2 9	..	..	..	....
17	61	23	4032	2439	150600	24985	2201	3 1	..	..	129	8 11 7
18	230	116	16657	9187	489887	78336	5657	3 0	..	320	317	33 0 0
	3738	1664	235193	128431	5206122	961768	53357	..	..	1419	3807	471 17 4
19		76	..	6000	12400	490	400	..	..	..	..	1 5 0
	3738	1740	235193	134431	5218522	962258	53757	..	..	1419	3807	473 2 4
	3333	1834	197141	128635	4395665	899084	54506	..	..	1310	3754	444 14 0
	..	76	..	5557	11329	453	400	..	57	..	14	....
	3333	1910	197141	134192	4406994	899537	54906	..	57	1310	3763	444 14 0
1	41	38	3326	2667	9093	14444	1471	2 9	..	8	27	9 2 6
2	61	25	3601	2059	101605	12270	1076	2 4	..	114	..	6 5 0
3	63	34	4226	2900	100575	12557	1040	2 2½	..	58	116	8 14 0
4	20	18	1298	1272	51427	7186	373	2 5	..	..	40	3 8 8
5	2	..	139	..	9403	1419	77	3 1½	..	..	8	0 5 0
6	7	..	411	..	18161	2256	93	2 5	..	..	27	1 11 3
7	6	..	387	..	20379	3117	114	2 10½	..	21	12	1 14 7
8	47	19	2690	1624	83160	12006	1110	2 5½	..	..	162	5 7 1
9	130	43	7073	2726	175661	22050	2084	2 2½	..	99	198	17 6 0
10	50	31	3478	2675	87193	10810	1462	2 1½	..	..	77	7 17 8
11	50	30	3159	2308	116538	18618	670	3 1	..	..	41	9 2 3
12	24	9	1873	1005	52484	6812	895	2 1½	..	..	51	4 5 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
FALEKIRK DISTRICT—Con.										
Laurieston.....	511	8175	173	331	2151	949	252	5767	708	13
Longcroft	915	12950	2548	962	5977	3868	1647	5081	1287	14
Redding.....	3486	108121	1299	5869	13682	601	962	122391	10009	15
Skinflats	227	12387	101	397	777	435	179	12194	387	16
Slamannau	1170	2772	22740	2085	9312	815	..	19653	2749	17
Stenhousemuir Equitable	1395	24483	844	2264	5583	8993	1644	13911	763	18
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	22948	414445	66033	85002	134305	101184	30459	310108	30460	
Productive Societies—										
Bainsford & Grahamston	4534	41081	895	2652	2413	11979	2324	30823	1884	19
Baking	380	2443	275	183	282	1100	..	1075	722	20
Carronshore Baking.....										
Produce Soc's. Total for 1917	4861	43524	1170	2835	2635	13079	2324	31898	2606	
District Total for 1917	27812	457969	67203	37837	137000	114263	32783	342006	33066	
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	21562	405295	63335	30896	120607	104419	29198	301333	29356	
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	4566	42439	988	2429	2605	13641	2423	30341	2065	
District Total for previous year (1916)	26128	447734	64323	33325	123212	118060	31626	331674	31421	
No. 6—FIFE AND KINROSS DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Auchtermuchty	604	4201	119	661	2826	1450	182	1578	425	1
Buckhaven	2403	42219	1410	3279	11257	22412	2099	21434	3071	2
Burntisland	758	12733	2326	1196	3769	1601	4300	8285	1369	3
Coaltown of Wemyss....	335	9390	542	406	2102	1693	718	6360	649	4
Cowdenbeath	2231	51071	845	5358	12594	13345	2353	35354	..	5
Cupar (Fife)	499	4588	637	503	2369	2490	..	1465	713	6
Dunfermline	12448	172657	..	21607	68350	73426	..	83869	..	7
Dysart	2153	28831	824	2454	10383	11768	210	16905	2866	8
East Wemyss	1186	26207	62	756	7021	4055	1991	17156	2385	9
Falkland	120	662	..	142	440	400	..	342	158	10
Freuchie Reform	143	600	..	318	490	265	..	628	35	11
Guardbridge	665	7011	74	1240	2349	2455	..	5387	680	12
Kelty	2354	58275	578	5896	16935	13099	672	39484	2173	13
Kettle	410	1790	513	500	819	45	..	2619	227	14
Kingseat	260	3240	597	287	1620	1904	..	1852	220	15
Kinross and Vicinity ...	327	1853	26	295	1336	90	..	1255	156	16
Lassodie	224	3750	135	275	1890	25	..	3481	285	17
Leslie	295	5085	..	456	1191	247	..	5073	..	18
„ and District	1171	26509	194	1690	8031	7347	3000	15584	..	19
Leven (Reform)	2111	41646	891	1454	13279	26547	1550	11023	2502	20
Lochgelly	4087	86925	685	10145	26445	19278	1472	52676	11033	21
Markinch	2004	44436	26	1614	13064	14353	..	31560	2434	22
Methill	1040	16182	7680	740	8114	10807	4260	4338	1216	23
Newburgh and District .	251	2577	1384	348	915	710	452	2745	143	24
Pathhead & Sinclairtown	5664	80247	3549	6115	24981	34042	2400	45338	..	25
St. Andrews	417	2472	30	414	1366	253	..	1985	432	26
Townhill	718	8075	383	1612	3992	4647	1940	1367	370	27
West Wemyss.....	284	9187	319	510	2438	850	675	6413	731	28
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	45236	752429	24149	70271	250405	269004	28214	425556	34213	

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
13	16	1	1039	26	38014	8911	954	2 2	..	16	....
14	28	7	163	777	56427	6873	514	2 4	..	25	4 15 0
16	98	85	6478	3108	2719-2	53000	3703	3 7½	..	14	..
16	4	..	969	1644	2618	583	2 6	..	..	8	1 8 0
17	37	21	2580	1641	84865	10888	129	2 7½	..	..	5 19 8
18	58	81	2766	2252	82097	10377	1046	2 3	..	23	6 17 9
	742	342	46324	27040	1462896	211842	16799	..	..	337	827
											93 19 11
19	45	56	2946	6456	101124	14228	1527	2 9½	..	65	129
20	2	5	159	364	5776	889	81	2 9	..	..	1
										
	47	61	8105	6820	106900	16117	1608	..	..	65	190
											10 0 0
	789	403	49429	88860	1569796	226459	18407	..	..	402	957
											103 19 11
	718	369	59480	24591	1225987	201646	15247	..	..	389	1074
											93 11 10
	48	63	2497	6183	85949	18317	1609	..	..	56	113
											10 0 0
	766	432	41977	30724	1811936	214963	16856	..	..	395	1187
											103 11 10
1	16	4	642	496	18860	2618	290	2 8	..	14	..
2	64	43	3534	3989	114134	20502	1672	3 11	..	98	72
3	22	10	1169	828	39393	4357	490	2 3	..	71	31
4	9	3	483	281	18896	2493	400	2 9½	..	..	7
5	82	46	5123	3119	144220	23104	2464	2 9½	..	184	148
6	9	5	308	549	15030	2513	208	3 0	..	8	2
7	890	201	21972	14937	618790	99121	6274	2 10½	..	929	50
8	70	27	4108	2372	115121	18987	1190	3 6	..	82	49
9	25	28	1729	2103	73516	11761	1009	3 9½	..	..	27
10	3	2	135	100	3063	376	30	2 9	..	..	..
11	3	..	192	..	4633	698	29	3 3	..	..	..
12	13	8	805	478	28836	4850	332	3 6	..	..	..
13	85	55	6024	4238	172389	27748	2505	2 10½	..	252	65
14	7	1	355	106	10962	1821	79	3 1	..	..	2
15	7	5	512	480	15550	2568	127	3 2	..	..	15
16	5	..	273	..	11658	1526	90	2 4	..	..	3
17	8	..	546	..	20345	3405	187	3 1	..	..	31
18	4	..	216	..	7674	1853	211	4 5	..	..	8
19	28	19	1610	1410	55415	10037	1140	4 5	..	12	26
20	40	45	8131	2913	102758	19745	1765	3 10½	..	15	64
21	163	72	9509	5833	283904	44938	2852	2 10½	..	231	107
22	73	49	4632	2738	138221	23124	1870	3 10	..	214	..
23	84	23	1931	1693	58526	9286	733	3 2	..	25	215
24	4	1	242	76	7351	1232	124	3 0	..	4	6
25	198	83	12786	6342	259290	38990	3718	2 10	..	174	573
26	6	3	468	305	11799	1102	116	1 9½	..	8	3
27	22	9	1592	860	41869	6064	429	2 7	..	60	3
28	7	2	452	266	16452	2897	395	3 3½	..	..	30
											1 10 5
	1387	744	84479	56112	2393825	387656	30669	..	..	2381	1554
											215 8 4

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society, for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
FIFE & KINROSS DIST.—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Productive Societies:—									
Burntisland Bread	272	881	173	1000	242	969	500	8	29
Kettle Baking	490	1455	23	243	341	743	..	1048	80
Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	348	711	..	100	97	262	..	1018	6
Produc. Socs. Total for 1917	1110	2550	196	1343	680	1974	500	2074	72
District Total for 1917	46346	754979	24345	71614	251085	270978	28714	427630	34285
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	41483	747706	25531	64954	224856	263002	29977	449834	31446
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	1144	3621	34	327	413	1414	..	3094	68
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	42627	751327	25565	65281	225269	264416	29977	446868	31514
No. 7—GLASGOW & SUBS.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Anniesland	692	15565	1650	1297	4087	4869	..	10382	1188
Avonbank (Rutherglen) ..	3059	42728	4431	2832	4074	6392	7521	31841	3077
Blairdardie	88	657	28	80	114	100	96	522	59
Bridgeton Old Victualling	1201	3608	..	8589	4311	300	3000	10286	1371
Cadder	492	4144	198	530	2546	174	..	2215	696
Cambuslang	2333	40786	4587	3006	13248	11456	5111	26722	..
Clydebank	9276	144046	63253	10694	75650	63018	19335	67427	13557
Cowlairs	11086	154678	42736	28035	67122	28669	10266	157836	15638
Dalmuir	1034	6669	9256	579	4058	10577	..	3228	1392
Dumbarton Equitable ..	4987	109383	34011	5191	31231	15000	..	106740	7318
Duntocher and Hardgate	604	3681	4163	848	2518	1445	13-6	3875	692
East Kilbride	194	2018	842	602	426	704	989	1676	209
Gilbertfield	1053	9855	14384	1868	4476	4264	2175	18-77	13
Glasgow-D'py & Furnish.	4193	78903	102338	14836	86016	57556	15000	32476	6062
" Eastern	13765	68747	68974	8991	48324	17031	13103	79755	6010
" Kinning Park	25893	227093	65142	33429	100248	70094	13980	201394	14638
" London Road	2681	5034	18761	1956	4639	30-6	670	18-06	1540
" Progress	5487	78628	7162	2367	14334	1517	..	65445	4448
" St. George	2948	55600	184696	27467	94356	46697	26665	143940	8809
" St. Rollox	6122	38286	18542	6380	15485	15418	..	44395	2477
Kirkintilloch	2109	41861	299	3524	18931	10145	4571	18560	..
Lennox (Dumbarton) ...	2375	27168	6621	1713	18331	10371	2074	5811	5883
Lennoxtown	445	2300	1765	420	1146	2143	709	3277	552
Milngavie	870	10806	784	1250	3378	3329	..	6976	1295
Newton	368	4658	4033	434	1440	1817	516	4498	140
Rutherglen Vict'g & Bkg.	515	1463	5-8	688	764	904	..	816	84
Shettleston	7263	64629	57-62	10335	33525	10424	1254-0	85688	695
Stonefield	330	4623	724	1161	2928	1888	..	2016	846
Tollcross	1691	33072	1490	231-0	3402	8450	60-0	22543	..
Uddingston	2374	9188	47903	8946	11913	7479	3286	39453	5950
Vale of Leven (Alexand'a)	5442	121297	7192	11879	44873	23173	20440	67961	369
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	138420	1405529	771815	187285	718504	488290	169443	1288537	104992
Productive Societies—									
Glasgow-Civic Press	200	1834	572	2075	841	860	..	1970	1599
" Scottish Newspr	1470	217	156	214	..	..	..	1724	1477
" United Baking	1209	226037	2826951	15816	38853	207-90	16010	369129	23014
Produce Socs. Total for 1917	479	2280-8	2834231	18105	39694	208850	16010	372823	26090
District Total for 1917	138899	1633617	1055238	305390	758198	647140	185453	1661360	131082

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Charit- able Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
29	2	3	193	446	3494	159	69	..	..	1	....
30	2	6	272	416	6931	569	67	3 0	..	5	2 16 6
31	..	4	..	332	3496	538	18	2 8	..	..	....
	4	13	465	1194	19921	1266	154	..	..	6	2 16 6
	1391	757	84944	57306	2407746	388992	30823	..	..	2381	1560 218 4 10
	1320	741	71354	51871	2032650	385857	29072	..	..	2122	1111 197 8 11
	3	9	278	1214	11553	1490	156	..	..	5	2 15 8
	1923	750	71632	53085	2044203	387347	29228	..	..	2122	1116 200 4 7
1	27	1	2047	132	48369	4695	489	1 8 ³ / ₄	..	53	27 3 10 10
2	113	1	7879	117	168979	20633	1729	2 2 ¹ / ₂	..	279	150 14 16 0
3	1	..	114	..	8001	536	25	2 1	..	..	....
4	81	17	2711	1813	91073	16255	..	3 1	..	..	18
5	22	..	1192	..	33155	3156	146	2 1 ¹ / ₂	..	..	13 2 11 6
6	91	40	6918	2807	157677	12614	1830	1 3 ¹ / ₂	..	107	92 11 11 4
7	495	122	37706	9238	717592	52563	6407	1 3 ¹ / ₂	..	837	338 44 7 10
8	660	194	36931	12289	690285	78552	7323	1 11	..	1026	577 54 3 0
9	38	4	2924	287	64782	5899	232	1 9 ¹ / ₂	..	..	55 4 13 8
10	193	76	11837	6216	277687	36175	4285	2 2	..	341	199 23 13 10
11	23	5	1593	700	42000	4201	181	1 11	..	44	16 2 14 7
12	5	2	324	100	9416	877	79	1 8	..	10	.. 0 18 9
13	48	4	3057	293	99996	12424	486	2 2	..	125	112 5 5 5
14	257	233	17253	14376	801931	18645	3910	2 10	3400	..	330 14 0 0
15	320	64	21774	4190	537564	57292	2710	1 6 ¹ / ₂	2365	693	68 66 10 0
16	936	147	66679	12632	1120871	122742	9600	1 7	5487	1909	918 125 5 2
17	55	3	3700	963	101773	11170	254	1 10	296	148	100 14 1 0
18	83	45	6243	5230	180131	4575	3180	..	..	..	111 24 9 11
19	700	126	62884	8850	969336	100306	2400	1 8	5415	1747	209 103 16 7
20	185	32	10884	2218	221738	25187	1597	1 10	..	180	272 30 18 10
21	146	39	6920	3177	135668	16495	1947	2 2	..	66	157 10 10 5
22	149	34	5250	2573	121395	15194	1083	2 3	..	..	110
23	17	3	718	296	24890	2841	113	2 3	..	..	15 2 2 6
24	34	5	2203	346	47119	5085	286	2 0	..	98	20 4 6 4
25	8	2	906	181	24567	2019	211	2 0	..	4	31 1 14 4
26	16	3	785	433	30003	3838	17	3 0	65	..	..
27	273	41	18904	3328	380345	41562	3065	1 11	..	415	272 37 4 4
28	11	2	813	387	31570	3917	175	..	111	14	15 1 18 0
29	54	18	4124	1263	109419	12937	1977	2 1 ¹ / ₂	..	61	55 8 15 7
30	95	42	6565	3202	182050	20338	2495	1 11 ¹ / ₂	..	..	280 11 11 3
31	205	87	14593	7016	396773	41394	5004	2 1 ¹ / ₂	..	379	377 26 17 0
	5296	1392	356430	104043	7286450	755217	62586	..	17079	8526	5550 652 8 0
32	..	21	..	2033	5194	359	92	..	..	..	11 1 1 0
33	3	2	44	304	5902	2286	11	..	..	..	19 1 0 0
34	557	1212	52306	93892	1353450	96242	11188	1 0	7285	1325	1152 25 0 0
	560	1235	52350	96229	1364546	96601	11291	..	7285	1325	1182 27 0 0
	5856	2627	408780	200272	8650996	851818	73877	..	24364	9851	6732 679 8 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
GLASGOW AND SUBS.— <i>Con.</i>									
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	129797	1354249	811485	169569	686561	471790	136490	1835019	101224
*Special Society for previous year (1916)	22	490	2051	..	1016	96	..	1831	..
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	478	222351	299060	195148	76084	282655	4972	319884	27437
District Total for previous year (1916)	130297	1577690	112596	274717	713691	704541	141462	1656234	128661
No. 8.—PERTH, FORFAR, & ABERDEEN DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib Societies—									
Aberdeen Northern	19775	159970	42850	29477	175858	119363	..	4476	..
Abernethy	201	194	25	..	186	390	..	476	33
Aberthaven	69	133	..	117	147	..	..	412	43
Arbroath Equitable	1923	23413	..	1431	8498	7513	1724	11222	2388
Friendly Coal	2424	2257	..	1025	741	813	355	198	2436
High Street	2127	20300	8876	535	12386	12596	4000	3051	3851
West Port	2341	17675	..	139	9870	5477	3650	2570	1482
Auchterarder Feus	309	4361	..	245	1126	810	773	2453	842
Provident	240	1905	..	169	1075	424	..	1247	964
‡Banff	405	..	141	..	585	70	..	..	25
Blaigowrie	360	1448	504	300	1063	944	..	978	356
Brechin United	3562	42208	2007	1650	11503	19272	6523	19465	3601
‡Buckie	700	..	569	..	1684	2978	..	..	215
Carnoustie Association . .	754	5541	8055	261	2980	3448	185	3246	799
Equitable	497	1263	3187	121	1130	3515	..	202	1411
Crieff	184	725	2299	27	367	2996	..	340	114
Don (Port Elphinstone) . .	1034	6820	..	844	3790	4384	..	43	896
Dundee (City of)	2387	12882	1020	2509	11119	3106	528	3503	4253
Coal Supply	2665	4742	..	377	610	1665	..	4383	500
Eastern	8272	84441	..	23719	48026	14355	17075	87399	15262
Dunning	62	122	..	75	87	4	..	242	44
‡Elgin	655	..	221	..	551	178	..	..	126
Forfar Coal	1260	1187	..	113	271	263	..	702	927
East Port Saving . .	320	525	825	190	685	665	480	851	14
Free Trade Saving . .	462	729	1478	..	1578	1572	..	..	53
High Street	281	407	1080	4	496	624	822	638	32
†Northern . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Victoria Coal	953	362	..	80	184	198	..	281	933
West Port	267	383	..	..	676	80	..	776	88
West Town . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
‡Forres	574	..	460	..	744	137	..	..	101
Fraserburgh	472	2876	1553	159	1510	2281	1459	787	495
Inverness	467	1039	39	111	659	61	..	978	389
Kirriemuir	1352	10847	..	..	7163	3437	..	4000	1061
Coal	495	454	..	10	49	..	..	418	570
Monifieth Coal	144	126	..	47	27	40	..	91	162
Montrose B'k'g & Grocery .	1465	1643	..	729	1141	1966	..	935	304
Muthill	122	228	..	169	948	..	..	388	163
Perth (City of)	7659	106106	22911	14421	76142	56655	15027	81548	..
Coal	2302	4866	9	1459	207	1441	498	5366	93
‡Peterhead	1344	..	736	..	459	95	..	..	4
Strathisla	497	1558	462	169	1392	880	..	337	490
Thurso	1152	9878	4	1715	4161	2397	..	6127	1042
Wick & Pulteney Town . .	426	1646	1000	21	446	791	1290	496	810
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	72950	535060	95906	82353	391240	272364	53389	150550	45767
Productive Society— Auchterarder Baking . . .	423	1678	51	180	220	1083	..	1035	82
District Total for 1917	73373	536738	95357	82538	391460	273447	53389	151585	45849

* Now ceased trading.

† No recent figures available.

‡ Branch of S.C.W.S.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pnr. poses.	Charita- ble Pnr poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
4950	1380	294978	92249	5951892	757882	60437	..	18339	9969	5256	599 16 0
..	..	381	..	942	248	..	..	..	..	..	....
448	1193	47147	85614	1198052	104922	10858	..	8421	1599	1048	27 1 0
5398	2573	842506	177863	7150886	863002	71295	..	26760	11508	6304	626 17 0
1	1314	342	58483	29270	1008926	128687	7998	2 8	..	75	540
2	1	2	67	156	3827	435	10	3 0	..	..	5
3	2	..	107	..	2828	247	7	1 10	..	..	..
4	38	34	2065	2008	64088	8864	1156	2 5½	..	..	..
5	10	..	1020	..	9279	870	80	1 6	..	..	..
6	36	33	2730	2034	70248	7707	992	2 2	..	..	..
7	42	30	2613	1867	56656	6101	848	1 11	..	..	..
8	6	..	301	..	10372	1339	190	2 3	..	..	..
9	5	..	317	..	6293	817	95	2 5½	..	..	..
10	3	..	114	..	2143	42	2	1 0	..	..	..
11	9	4	476	343	14194	1822	59	2 6	..	..	..
12	64	44	4041	3488	105962	11732	1702	1 8½	..	142	61
13	12	..	655	..	9802	555	12	1 5	..	..	..
14	18	15	1154	1259	229-6	2097	260	1 6	..	..	..
15	7	3	385	591	1044	552	54	1 6	..	..	..
16	5	3	258	169	5658	129	39	0 6	..	..	..
17	25	10	1266	519	24433	710	179	0 7½	..	..	..
18	76	19	4670	1808	70603	6223	539	1 8	..	58	3
19	30	..	2456	..	16748	476	211	..	..	3	14
20	389	77	19031	7118	416382	47016	3876	2 2	..	..	..
21	2	..	55	..	1370	126	6	1 10	..	..	..
22	5	..	226	..	4751	26	4	1 0	..	..	..
23	5	..	527	..	4695	486	..	2 0	..	..	..
24	4	3	276	250	10061	1236	23	2 6	..	..	..
25	6	4	254	291	11438	2166	29	..	..	..	..
26	4	2	239	226	7919	965	19	2 6	..	..	..
27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28	9	..	531	..	3992	317	13	1 6	..	..	..
29	3	2	230	238	8538	1049	15	2 6	..	..	..
30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
31	5	..	224	..	5927	448	9	1 8	..	..	..
32	10	6	529	266	11235	823	137	1 3	..	..	..
33	9	2	559	281	11044	254	50	0 6	..	7	..
34	24	18	1579	1201	46286	4540	469	2 0	..	..	..
35	4	..	314	..	2774	359	20	2 6	..	..	..
36	3	..	100	..	952	43	4	1 0	..	1	..
37	14	5	1121	581	32558	3860	71	2 4	..	..	..
38	2	..	115	..	3876	875	7	2 1	..	3	..
39	277	201	16437	12142	370466	40883	4837	1 11	..	599	154
40	14	..	1619	..	15573	911	200	1 8	..	10	23
41	10	..	289	..	9806	1098	14	2 2	..	..	..
42	6	..	883	250	8536	523	71	1 0	..	..	..
43	26	5	1433	310	29205	2536	398	1 9	..	3	..
44	2	3	128	195	3292	41	63	1 0	..	..	..
	2486	871	129377	66865	2536164	289506	24773	..	..	901	854
45	3	4	203	334	5992	538	78	1 4½	..	..	2
	2489	875	129580	67199	2542156	290044	24851	..	..	901	856

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
PERTH, FORFAR, & ABERDEEN DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	68583	545843	78617	51782	240767	309718	176916	197547	40494
<i>Productive Society Total for previous year (1916)</i>	453	1823	36	123	276	1131	..	873	127
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	69036	547666	78653	51905	241043	310849	176916	198420	40621
No. 9—RENFREWSHIRE DIS.									
<i>Retail Distrib. Societies—</i>									
Barrhead	3467	58716	27671	9301	22852	15288	22051	38990	2758
Bridge of Weir	341	2923	744	184	1560	716	1060	1279	153
Busby	323	2882	103	288	1143	466	371	1866	873
Cathcart	944	9331	3464	1035	3153	20:1	2506	6881	277
Greenock Central	9285	98318	26088	16160	49610	49553	25640	38397	6674
„ East End	1206	12822	11123	1718	7098	5005	5031	10385	778
Howwood	161	2613	23	155	264	49	..	2695	93
Hurlet and Nitshill	280	838	7795	573	1676	912	4624	2539	684
Johnstone	2215	50363	4370	3522	11908	11944	9695	26968	1730
Kilbarchan	589	14637	1836	984	2794	2023	1002	12742	440
Linwood	332	7404	..	514	1800	46	..	6759	600
Lochwinnoch	318	3816	3712	331	1628	1729	3114	17 4	160
Newton Mearns	200	1125	4444	242	741	872	1012	3314	381
Paisley Equitable	1916	27200	6759	629	7013	12164	..	12000	1037
„ Provident	10115	157797	17077	27461	30047	75585	9334	99476	4153
„ Underwood Coal.	557	4446	1903	3038	1824	1833	..	8256	1480
Pollokshaws	1767	22443	794	2526	5352	3352	4348	17214	1833
Port Glasgow—Fore St. . .	2336	32714	2 28	3340	12242	7510	2145	19003	1830
„ Provident	2126	38753	1128	2675	6107	5443	1900	28535	..
Renfrew Equitable	2100	19024	33944	3318	8292	3859	4742	42354	1562
Thornliebank	594	18256	133	940	2091	1612	5582	9671	1885
<i>Retail Soc. Total for 1917</i>	41171	576421	155139	78884	178700	201772	104457	391168	28681
<i>Productive Societies—</i>									
Paisley Manufacturing ..	6943	69957	82823	11038	42515	36715	6596	77777	16190
Scottish Laundries Association (Barrhead)....	478	5060	12203	1635	1239	10915	..	7072	1271
<i>Produc. Soc. Total for 1917</i>	7021	75017	97026	13673	43754	47630	6596	84849	17461
<i>District Total for 1917</i>	48192	651438	250165	92557	222454	249402	111058	476017	46342
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	38543	578125	153182	68332	180398	218349	95979	35 530	29801
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	6346	65784	92132	12074	82515	50082	6706	81378	17460
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	44889	638909	245314	80456	212913	268431	102685	434908	47261
No. 10—STIRLING, WEST FIFE, AND CLACKMANNAN DISTRICT—									
<i>Retail Distrib. Societies—</i>									
†Aberfoyle	348	..	875	..	658	310	..	..	140
Alloa	5532	91980	8871	8533	52628	34082	16190	28532	2618
Alva Bazaar	1216	23889	338	1895	7076	4175	6:0	15364	1591
aBalfour	140	491	..	82	191	..	..	957	95
Bannockburn	1915	37950	..	6044	11791	14390	2708	17467	7530
Clackmannan	877	10101	182	672	1259	1295	713	8518	370
Coalsnaughton	269	2603	877	705	1738	348	122	2328	814

h Societies.

†Branch of S.C.W.S.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
2206	901	121929	64744	2311546	342298	24334	..	..	1008	1059	197 4 6
4	3	151	331	4822	377	77	1 4½	..	..	2	....
2270	904	122080	65075	2316368	342615	24411	..	..	1008	1061	197 4 6
1	127	63	7537	5798	204764	22624	2278	1 9½	..	261	432 17 10 6
2	11	..	418	..	11860	1365	137	1 11½	..	14	13 1 15 6
3	16	..	651	..	14866	1718	130	2 1½	..	16	12 1 14 8
4	30	..	2370	..	45261	4729	430	1 10½	..	..	16 4 16 10
5	316	99	14665	7078	834413	38894	2967	1 11	..	118	330 45 5 6
6	33	8	4096	1631	69547	8996	568	2 3	..	..	75 5 10 0
7	3	..	242	..	8693	1114	128	2 1	..	..	10 0 16 3
8	10	1	705	32	22701	2910	95	2 8	..	29	.. 1 7 5
9	75	15	5026	1772	124097	14304	2130	1 9	..	128	184 11 1 6
10	22	6	1418	185	37143	4828	562	2 2½	..	20	64 2 19 4
11	8	..	607	..	21854	2876	352	2 3	16	33	26 1 11 2
12	10	3	575	815	1674	1698	171	2 0½	..	8	9 1 2 11
13	8	..	410	..	13166	1925	53	3 0½	..	..	19 0 18 9
14	81	18	3952	1646	92218	8495	947	1 6½	..	100	121 9 10 6
15	418	83	20951	9537	475389	49458	7890	1 6½	..	983	.. 50 9 0
16	37	..	4029	..	93519	5312	221	2 3	..	..	167 2 0 10
17	52	6	5228	579	106059	11424	911	1 11	..	209	208 8 12 5
18	92	26	3701	2126	133827	18104	1536	2 1½	1451	19	56 10 12 5
19	81	12	3746	1438	108551	12897	1649	2 0	..	38	64 10 0 0
20	79	5	5795	479	147027	16912	726	2 1	..	114	221 10 14 4
21	21	..	1714	..	38190	4790	702	2 1	..	..	48 3 0 10
	1530	345	87846	32616	2065019	235373	24583	..	1467	2090	2075 202 0 8
22	87	375	9137	26810	285054	19954	3336	0 7	1030	..	368 25 0 0
23	..	164	..	10924	23549	519	253	..	..	9	8 1 0 0
	87	539	9137	37134	308603	20473	3589	..	1030	9	376 26 0 0
	1617	884	96983	69750	2373622	255846	28172	..	2497	2099	2451 223 0 8
	1474	359	80230	30364	1757224	233437	23593	..	549	2035	2332 185 11 5
	82	593	7610	34901	236402	15662	3248	..	1128	10	413 26 0 0
	1556	952	8740	65265	1993626	249099	26841	..	1677	2045	2745 211 11 5
1	9	..	494	..	10623	1149	26	2 0	..	..	.. ..
2	179	132	12504	9009	297807	41773	4085	2 5½	..	240	276 28 4 4
3	28	23	1860	1596	65745	9526	903	2 9	..	108	57 6 5 5
4	3	..	185	..	4845	416	18	1 9½	..	..	1 0 15 7
5	48	41	8312	2658	117839	19276	1671	3 0	..	..	.. 9 12 8
6	7	6	598	547	25354	4102	442	2 10	..	16	43 1 17 4
7	5	4	450	338	20116	3112	112	3 0½	..	..	29 1 6 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
STIRLING, WEST FIFE, AND CLACKMANNAN DIS.—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deanston	81	166	27	92	859	6	..	192	8
Dunblane	514	11651	36	563	2159	2905	525	8711	218
Menstrie	212	3602	100	307	940	379	293	2540	276
Newtonshaw	884	13024	1348	1540	3247	3841	380	9515	1889
Stirling	5090	82648	2287	7135	22940	18321	9800	48686	1475
Tillicoultry	1495	16168	92	1602	7460	5281	950	7921	1416
District Total for 1917	18023	294113	15033	29260	112446	84233	32281	150731	17932
<i>District Totals for previous year (1916)</i>	17044	294060	16511	27122	100761	86897	34139	157338	16050
Wholesale Society— Scottish Wholesale (Glas- gow) for 1917	1 263	598240	3664578	961143	1985853	684799	51088	2813212	578693
<i>Scottish Wholesale Society Totals for previous year (1916)</i>	917	522454	4042183	896963	1909564	659979	40434	2754159	578677

1. Societies and 665 employé members.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Ednca- tional Pur- poses.	Char- itable Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
8	1	1	91	79	3130	312	6	1 11	..	1	....
9	14	3	983	362	20781	3384	581	2 8½	..	9	2 9 8
10	5	2	263	238	10651	1644	123	2 11	..	11	1 0 4
11	19	26	1411	1776	48262	6985	532	2 8½	..	99	4 2 4
12	152	61	8584	5241	217475	33956	3878	2 8½	..	324	26 11 1
13	44	35	2481	2166	70767	10032	754	2 7½	..	90	7 16 0
	514	334	33116	24010	913395	135667	19136	..	..	791	692 90 1 8
	493	339	29921	22370	797215	132966	12427	..	..	761	603 85 2 0
	1545	II. 6977	146154	II. 509720	17079842	500915	28618	0 5½	III 10016	..	5290 132 0 0
	1440	6867	130062	463103	14502410	552116	25932	0 8	10870	..	12820 132 0 0

II. Including buying branches and service departments. III. Bonus equivalent.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—AYRSHIRE.....	35	42062	764188	102619	54796	194781	194252	82090	511510	38980
„ 2—BORDER COUNTIES..	12	13916	177143	34110	20334	86037	72089	5896	107909	24153
„ 3—CENTRAL	43	57888	821709	451089	104105	322377	225235	77605	848550	89723
„ 4—EAST OF SCOTLAND..	19	104859	1477703	121568	354647	555718	480167	190535	1079297	121140
„ 5—FALKIRK	20	27812	457969	67203	37837	137000	114263	32783	342006	33066
„ 6—FIFE AND KINROSS..	31	46346	754979	24345	71614	251085	270978	28714	427630	34285
„ 7—GLASGOW & SUBURBS	34	138899	1633617	1055238	305390	758198	647140	185453	1661360	131082
„ 8—PERTH, FORFAR AND ABERDEEN	45	73373	596738	95357	82538	391460	273447	53389	151585	45849
„ 9—RENFREWSHIRE	23	48192	651438	250165	92557	222454	249402	111053	476017	46342
„ 10—STIRLING, WEST OF FIFE & CLACKMANNAN	13	18023	294118	15033	29260	112446	84233	32231	150731	17932
WHOLESALE SOCIETY.....	1	263	593240	3664578	961143	1985853	684799	51088	2813212	578693
Totals, 1917.....	276	571583	8165832	5881305	2114221	5017404	3295955	850827	8569807	1161245
Totals, 1916.....	277	527768	8012143	6332140	1927511	4548874	3441443	898912	8780388	1134868
Increase .....	..	438 5	153689	..	186710	468530	..	..	..	26862
Decrease	1	..	..	450835	..	..	145488	48085	210581	..

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c.,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Distributive Societies ...	261	557258	7202502	1767181	1009909	2936724	2311485	773400	5206793
Productive Societies	14	14062	370090	449596	143169	94827	296671	26339	549802
Wholesale Society	1	263	593240	3664578	961143	1985853	684799	51088	2813212
Total for Section ..	276	571583	8165832	5881305	2114221	5017404	3295955	850827	8569807

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c., of

given for purposes of comparison. See also Introduction to

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Distributive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	261	514327	7134290	1836277	903805	2510550	2454152	843432	5585589
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	14	13157	354969	451629	126743	121714	327216	15046	489315
*Special Society Total for previous year (1916)....	1	22	430	2051	..	1046	96	..	1331
Wholesale Society Total for previous year (1916) ..	1	262	522454	4042183	890963	1909564	659979	40434	2754159
Total for Section for previous year (1916)	277	527768	8012143	6332140	1927511	4548874	3441443	898912	8780388

* Now ceased trading.

SCOTTISH SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	1248	581	74592	49990	2173072	267601	30670	26	1709	1607	197 2 6
2	381	231	26352	16925	662412	99099	7772	..	104	566	61 17 4
3	2209	1014	137824	84539	4138160	510179	34344	293	2638	4786	271 17 5
4	3738	1740	235193	134431	5218522	962258	53757	..	1419	3807	473 2 4
5	789	403	49429	33860	1569796	226459	18407	..	402	957	103 19 11
6	1391	757	84914	57306	2407746	388922	30823	..	2381	1560	218 4 10
7	5856	2627	408780	200272	8650996	851818	73877	24364	9851	6732	679 8 0
8	2489	875	129580	67199	2542156	290044	24851	..	901	856	201 1 6
9	1617	884	96983	69750	2373622	255846	28172	2497	2099	2451	228 0 8
10	514	334	33116	24010	913395	135667	13136	..	791	692	90 1 3
11	1545	697	146154	509720	17079842	600915	28618	10016	..	5290	132 0 0
	21777	16423	1422947	1248002	47729719	4488808	344427	37196	22295	29304	2656 15 9
	20228	16582	1226643	1152438	40246071	4511086	328190	39388	23280	36434	2494 17 1
	1549	..	196304	95564	7483648	..	16237	..	..	..	161 18 8
	..	159	..	..	..	22278	..	2192	985	7130	..

of various classes of Societies for Year 1917.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
19495	7449	1208763	582135	23702591	3341996	298228	18637	20896	22188	2455 14 3
737	1997	68030	156147	19472-6	145897	17581	8543	1399	1826	69 1 6
1545	6977	146154	509720	17079842	500915	28618	10016	..	5290	132 0 0
21777	16423	1422947	1248002	47729719	4488808	344427	37196	22295	29304	2656 15 9

various classes of Societies for previous Year (1916),

Statistics for Tables showing increase of memberships, &c.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
18166	7699	1036277	547419	24065214	3809658	285497	18912	21675	21907	2295 0 5
622	2016	59923	141916	1677505	149064	16761	9606	1605	1707	67 16 8
..	..	281	..	942	248	..	..	..	..	....
1440	6867	130062	463103	14502410	552116	25932	10870	..	1 820	132 0 0
20228	16582	1226643	1152438	40246071	4511086	328190	39338	23280	36434	2494 17 1

SOUTHERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
ISLE OF WIGHT, LONDON, KENT, MIDDLESEX, OXFORD,
arranged in their respective

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
NO. 1—NORTH METRO- POLITAN DISTRICT—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Anchor.....	1610	4290	681	495	2672	423	379	2042	382	1
Brentwood.....	1684	11566	4379	752	4496	4130	2133	6941	..	2
Chesham.....	1317	14601	853	524	5078	6160	574	5480	227	3
Co-op. Brotherhood Trust	122	431	202	173	304	21	219	244	33	4
† Croxley.....	492	2932	375	365	2250	999	457	904	204	5
Edmonton.....	32081	140504	27010	13182	78268	87318	6297	33852	946	6
Enfield Highway.....	10131	157887	10431	7647	65422	39498	2410	89529	227	7
Epping.....	1485	9375	614	696	3454	3693	..	4820	368	8
Euston.....	860	265	119	465	1460	..	..	1813	30	9
Gothic (Edmonton).....	88	101	..	100	170	24	..	319	114	10
† Grays.....	7640	65616	5917	7268	34036	33989	692	18725	1550	11
Hendon.....	2398	9318	2760	816	6471	6860	592	1123	211	12
London Perseverance.....	344	707	178	75	534	123	..	455	14	13
Railway Clearing House.	1240	1542	2757	1156	3605	1065	..	1691	1747	14
† St. Clements.....	130	161	..	20	64	43	..	82	6	15
Stratford.....	44622	479996	8429	17229	130172	227219	47407	174971	..	16
Watford.....	7041	50096	11154	4244	23055	21426	..	27282	323	17
West London.....	13596	60023	8433	1506	23824	24027	2114	30618	404	18
Willesden and District..	5572	21832	15219	1254	21789	11769	6581	3982	291	19
Willesden Junc. Railway	450	3778	156	165	1240	12	..	3359	2	20
Yiewsley & West Drayton	1590	8254	2429	844	5597	5632	211	2655	518	21
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	134502	1043275	102096	58976	413967	474431	70066	410887	7597	
Supply Association—										
Civil Service Supply....	7559	353920	757521	26904	328795	201258	24572	123913	36140	22
Productive Societies—										
Chesham Boot and Shoe.	108	3105	1543	2737	4800	1459	..	2216	1249	23
Co-op. Bass Dressers....	65	574	..	2544	512	..	..	3165	1234	24
Kling's Cross Publishing..	8	150	1000	1500	10	..	..	2063	1082	25
London Bookbinders....	77	341	..	14	131	55	..	254	108	26
London Clothiers.....	94	1571	180	485	1996	113	..	691	748	27
Woodworkers Limited (Letchworth).....	7	8430	18129	..	2427	10452	..	6099	8443	28
Produc. Socs. Total for 1917	359	14171	20852	7280	9876	12079	..	14488	12864	
District Total for 1917	142420	1411366	198700	198160	752638	687768	94638	549288	56601	
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)....</i>	<i>119255</i>	<i>964257</i>	<i>98095</i>	<i>54030</i>	<i>366070</i>	<i>464225</i>	<i>81242</i>	<i>387300</i>	<i>11560</i>	
<i>*Supply Associations Total for previous year (1916) ..</i>	<i>7906</i>	<i>366347</i>	<i>61285</i>	<i>221036</i>	<i>347219</i>	<i>236874</i>	<i>24567</i>	<i>205291</i>	<i>150181</i>	
<i>§ Special Society Total for previous year (1916).....</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>3263</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>3860</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>..</i>	
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)....</i>	<i>339</i>	<i>12717</i>	<i>19439</i>	<i>7704</i>	<i>9503</i>	<i>14818</i>	<i>3362</i>	<i>6871</i>	<i>10762</i>	
<i>† District Total for previous year (1916).....</i>	<i>127624</i>	<i>1344296</i>	<i>182082</i>	<i>282830</i>	<i>722849</i>	<i>719777</i>	<i>109171</i>	<i>599688</i>	<i>172502</i>	

d 1915 Figures. † Nine months' trading.

*Includes Canteen and Mess (London) Society, now under Government control. § Motor Cab Society, since ceased trading. ‡ Includes Canteen and Mess (London) and Motor Cab Societies

SECTION.

BEDFORD, BERKS, BUCKS, CAMBRIDGE, DORSET, ESSEX, HANTS, HERTS, NORFOLK, SUFFOLK, SURREY, SUSSEX, and WILTS, for 1917, Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	21	5	1359	711	40466	819	177	0 6	..	35	38	7 6 0
2	33	3	2354	358	40011	2879	529	1 0	..	60	49	7 18 0
3	26	5	1916	386	41494	2646	639	1 0½	..	36	25	6 8 7
4	2	..	164	..	2234	63	3	0 8	..	4	1	0 13 8
5	9	2	397	141	14515	1158	104	1 5	..	..	..	2 6 8
6	558	97	41604	12430	512969	30373	6056	0 10½	..	775	260	143 18 0
7	258	25	19692	3300	308816	29228	7558	1 3	..	447	191	47 17 2
8	28	5	2044	390	34708	2237	378	1 0	42	47	37	7 12 9
9	14	..	582	..	22467	1195	27	2 0	..	..	2	....
10	1	..	85	..	2085	140	5	0 7½	..	..	..	....
11	216	35	12399	2235	200001	16317	1712	1 5	24½	372	86	36 12 1
12	38	8	2832	659	39052	2352	382	0 9	94	38	5	11 0 4
13	5	..	277	..	5359	263	21	0 9	7	4	11	1 15 5
14	23	..	1090	..	20032	650	154	0 9	..	..	..	2 2 0
15	1	..	46	..	551	66	1	0	..	..	..	....
16	1179	223	84363	29562	1285801	86988	26502	1 0	..	602	173	219 1 7
17	122	20	8967	2183	179932	16488	2344	1 4½	..	10	95	34 15 9
18	165	19	13750	2497	198752	10333	2467	0 9½	..	206	168	53 13 0
19	98	10	7962	1252	106239	5144	848	0 8½	102	94	38	23 14 5
20	8	..	737	..	14525	1129	175	1 4	..	..	5	2 5 8
21	38	5	2383	492	45702	3693	338	1 2	121	70	9	6 15 6
	2843	462	205012	56596	3115711	214095	50419	..	607	2800	1193	615 16 7
22	1643	158	141779	21051	1662654	57235	..	..	..	..	119	39 4 0
23	..	58	..	6442	29257	2681	123	0 5	350	24	104	0 10 5
24	..	17	..	2150	9523	1146	..	..	670	84	12	0 7 0
25	..	..	..	..	6706	86	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
26	..	4	..	328	588	8	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 3
27	3	16	611	2055	8399	548	74	0 9	56	..	..	0 10 6
28	..	2	..	196	2708	643	..	..	..	..	..	....
	3	97	611	11171	57181	5018	197	..	1076	108	116	2 1 2
	4489	717	347402	88818	4835546	1276348	50616	..	1683	2908	1428	657 1 9
	2705	485	177387	52790	2841790	206539	46586	..	615	2865	1399	558 18 0
	1454	203	175434	20771	3359428	91130	621	..	..	..	208	44 1 6
	24	..	505	..	3841	..	48	..	..	..	..	....
	6	105	953	13086	55216	2473	173	..	601	74	81	2 0 9
	4189	798	354279	86647	6260275	300142	47428	..	1216	2939	1688	605 0 3

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Vaine of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
No. 2—SOUTH METRO- POLITAN DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Addington	16	95	153	285	250		612	53	1
Addlestone	1987	11660	976	1311	5989	3399	336	6233	605 2
Bromley and Crays	9320	65537	9172	3886	34237	34093	13126	10500	3245 3
Croydon	8820	41071	4043	2150	18311	22122	3931	12828	580 4
Godalming	1662	21192	1573	120	10044	7457	1858	4981	876 5
Gomshall	338	2983	481	83	1151	500	621	1823	137 6
Guildford	3906	48004	1537	7668	13962	17547	7016	25710	590 7
Haslemere	1370	15421	1608	1103	5014	4925	1192	9301	310 8
Penge and Beckenham	4200	25144	3550	766	12035	7216	251	11628	1094 9
Staines	2397	15660	2597	1303	10110	9013	816	2918	294 10
Woking	2510	15905	14065	896	8137	8710	13611	2507	528 11
Woolwich (Royal Ars'n'l)	60741	706059	60182	84751	214135	315105	23972	384329	2951 12
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	97776	969691	99037	104331	333375	430096	66730	473370	11272
Productive Society— Greenwich Bread & Flour									
	64	712	49	198	86	600	175	154	.. 13
District Total for 1917	97840	970403	99086	104529	333461	430696	66905	473524	11272
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	87263	917845	108545	99505	300942	364997	141212	458590	11543
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	80	912	..	130	46	905	..	91	..
District Total for previous year (1916)	87343	918757	108545	99635	300988	365902	141212	458681	11543
No. 3—KENT DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Ashford	2661	30522	6109	1338	13603	10895	4643	10702	472 1
Canterbury	831	3189	3	439	1601	962	..	1455	219 2
Chatham and District	4142	45531	12421	1667	25539	19698	1415	16344	1148 3
Dartford	3190	24767	6797	1786	15152	9193	2875	7829	952 4
Faversham	1880	26336	1558	1393	10636	3986	20	19002	486 5
Folkestone	3967	47925	9393	2340	23328	14968	7479	21468	1283 6
Gillingham	7416	102963	23551	8233	45069	25127	4604	75376	1816 7
Gravesend (Borough of)	3311	16216	4150	1058	13410	8217	290	2247	80 8
Greenstreet	425	3332	2	469	1921	938	418	1000	194 9
Maldstone	952	3339	1557	228	3082	1844	..	625	331 10
Rainham	723	7888	735	659	5730	2027	268	3053	42 11
Ramsgate	819	3751	512	352	2785	1757	..	762	274 12
River and District	5690	70020	4076	3216	22678	20746	3375	39643	3530 13
Rochester and District	3812	25415	7528	895	13818	17464	200	2819	672 14
Sheerness	4394	57515	3554	3128	28284	17410	5125	19364	1063 15
„ Economical	3031	27385	536	3064	8450	11137	4264	10753	349 16
Sittingbourne	4205	57634	9237	5814	14908	14020	9444	44389	860 17
Tonbridge	755	3741	3122	167	1536	3535	956	1036	345 18
Walmer and Mongeham	790	5001	147	254	2283	2924	..	1399	382 19
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	52994	562470	94988	36500	253813	186848	45376	279266	14498
Productive Society— Alfred Joint Stock Bread and Flour									
	618	3562	2021	250	771	5414	..	871	782 20
District Total for 1917	53612	566032	97009	36750	254584	192262	45376	280137	15280
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	48545	528681	94144	37125	231903	203259	34329	255440	19893
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	801	6258	6419	200	1636	19811	..	38	1666
District Total for previous year (1916)	49346	534939	100563	37325	233539	214070	34329	255478	21559

‡ Includes Medway Barge Builders and Carriers' Society, now sold.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
							s. d.					
		£	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	3	143	613	2597	61	5	1 0	..	..	..	0 2 1
2	50	3074	613	56835	4055	530	1 0	149	80	23	9 1 4	
3	209	33	14251	3468	217915	12708	2965	0 10	..	256	69 45 5 3	
4	142	16	10355	1991	152268	9113	1731	1 0	..	187	104 39 11 1	
5	37	4	2985	444	48439	3009	1007	0 11	..	20	20 7 18 9	
6	9	2	568	231	10954	651	136	1 0	15	..	3 1 15 2	
7	105	10	7720	1174	127640	11976	2145	1 7	..	..	10 16 14 7
8	24	3	1811	294	39290	3382	654	1 4	39	33	14 6 2 0	
9	63	7	5224	1174	70921	4694	1076	0 9	..	81	43 8 13 5	
10	91	11	4561	826	63608	3326	679	0 9	157	71	31 12 17 11	
11	63	7	3583	597	64829	4118	691	1 0	64	73	34 11 5 0	
12	1494	290	113168	35429	1775153	124513	27175	0 10	4072	2064	398 295 18 9	
	2290	389	167443	46241	2636449	181006	38794	..	4496	2865	749 455 5 4	
13	1	3	82	116	2024	172	33	..	..	..	....
	2291	392	167525	46357	2638473	181778	38827	..	4496	2865	749 455 5 4	
	2112	455	152081	48879	2321559	178853	35539	..	5094	3163	906 395 15 8	
	..	..	..	235	1173	56	41	..	..	..	....
	2112	455	152081	49114	2322732	178909	35580	..	5094	3163	906 395 15 8	
1	67	3	4096	218	73395	5626	1399	1 2	196	116	95 6 14 0	
2	10	3	596	278	16329	887	99	1 0	..	20	15 4 1 1	
3	114	13	7547	1230	122787	7785	2197	0 10	..	139	34 18 19 1	
4	93	12	6767	1278	124582	8466	1109	1 2	..	179	92 14 15 11	
5	57	8	3982	742	77738	6431	1025	1 6	..	82	73 9 9 4	
6	104	10	7095	1043	124071	9131	2222	1 7	..	..	54 19 0 2
7	246	95	14586	7108	289020	26134	4608	1 6	..	251	191 34 19 0	
8	78	6	5064	853	77644	2213	782	0 4	..	42	30 13 4 8	
9	8	3	626	192	14106	406	123	0 4	14	2	.. 2 5 4	
10	11	3	995	290	17941	680	137	0 6	18	9	5 4 10 4	
11	20	9	1333	512	27911	2187	306	1 4	..	20	19 3 14 4	
12	14	2	811	128	14828	857	165	1 0	..	17	14 4 19 3	
13	152	41	9406	3087	185038	16657	3301	1 7	..	120	72 28 6 8	
14	91	5	4812	470	84152	4159	1154	0 8	..	76	96 18 3 1	
15	124	39	7405	2262	133212	13278	2278	1 7	365	..	94 20 18 9	
16	59	22	4624	1983	72980	2621	1177	1 2	55	56	60 15 18 3	
17	124	26	7479	2199	176364	18897	2262	1 11	..	70	262 21 6 8	
18	10	4	732	355	20175	505	178	0 6	..	..	3 3 17 1
19	14	3	812	220	18856	1141	210	1 0	..	..	1 3 14 0
	1396	307	88768	24448	1671129	128061	24727	..	648	1179	1210 248 17 0	
20	21	9	1408	1455	32420	3205	174	1 6	..	..	15
	1417	316	90176	25903	1703549	131266	24901	..	648	1179	1225 248 17 0	
	1308	345	81269	24780	1488859	140156	22155	..	645	1676	1291 236 9 6	
	33	18	2301	1831	34679	3182	171	..	..	..	5 1 1 0
	1341	363	83570	26611	1523538	143338	22326	..	645	1676	1296 237 10 6	

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 4—SUSSEX DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Arundel	761	4679	354	857	2171	1540	674	1833	58
Brighton	6552	57267	6920	3405	20686	19698	10624	23469	1368
Crawley and Ifield	598	3592	605	331	1950	1184	..	2014	10
Hastings, St. Leonards and Bexhill	502	1122	142	33	656	70	..	789	35
Haywards Heath	1328	8946	3627	800	5992	7581	..	1223	979
Lewes	1950	23498	4517	751	8652	7669	9119	5551	1274
Newhaven	2737	22861	7665	916	10313	11328	4984	5915	3808
Reigate	1840	23874	10558	650	5847	14280	11763	4305	1389
Tunbridge Wells	2614	17491	2622	1139	6395	5411	1852	0582	302
District Total for 1917	8882	163330	37010	8882	62662	68764	39016	54681	9313
Totals, previous year (1916)	117377	149033	33121	7247	55685	65557	42665	38032	8932
No. 5—HANTS DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Aldershot	3313	17858	4205	455	10980	11572	785	2353	98
Andover	1870	12756	376	1722	5823	3585	665	7398	92
Basinstoke	1787	13078	1698	1486	8449	2308	..	6374	627
Cowes	2812	15367	14653	1254	14278	11243	3023	6055	628
Eastleigh	2345	16083	7317	666	12131	10239	709	3257	543
Farnham and District ..	1905	7645	1908	514	4070	5409	..	1634	..
Parkstone & Bournemouth	6638	37967	10582	2914	24134	23623	1002	7796	..
Petersfield	430	1969	183	116	721	1117	..	501	154
Portsea Island	16518	191686	15449	9164	90113	77432	12909	58026	1088
Ringwood	647	4233	234	116	4174	641	343	788	51
Romsey	493	1425	96	276	1765	194	..	525	138
Shanklin Lake and Brantstone Union	693	6591	1616	346	3338	2279	2009	1509	223
Winchester	7908	57620	8781	4041	27518	21662	5895	23360	1900
Winchester	1673	11992	3955	737	8652	6890	930	2507	95
Retail Socrs. Total for 1917	49032	396270	71053	23807	216146	178194	28270	122083	6537
Special Society— Farnham and Alton Farmers	129	487	488	1158	355	..	..	1415	1981
Productive Society— Portsmouth Printers ...	103	312	867	..	105	784	..	256	122
District Total for 1917	19264	397060	72408	24965	216606	178978	28270	123754	8640
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	14951	367495	65602	21060	174845	173959	32362	116260	9070
Special Society Total for previous year (1916)	125	474	708	908	272	..	..	1000	3750
Productive Society Total for previous year (1916)	103	311	885	..	71	783	..	50	132
District Total for previous year (1916)	45179	368280	67255	21968	175188	174742	32362	117310	12952
No. 6—WILTS AND DORSET DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Amesbury	200	329	8	280	408	5	..	444	..
Bradford-on-Avon	996	11410	2428	659	3465	2406	62	9682	366
Calne	525	2343	1147	158	1839	739	133	1248	128
Childs Okeford	575	2973	202	1071	3873	1174	104	522	318
Chippenham	2104	13446	3961	1000	8761	5834	..	5912	975
Devizes	1124	5276	1157	436	3573	1626	..	2366	709
Mere	682	2641	1614	262	1840	2563	324	416	603
Salisbury	2081	19233	2234	1268	3720	4354	3177	14761	475

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	17	3	892	215	18834	1250	200	1 1	43	13	6	3 10 1
2	160	22	10660	2056	166154	11710	2598	1 1½	578	232	73	29 12 6
3	18	2	1033	225	16220	1030	149	1 0	..	24	27	2 15 10
4	11	2	559	182	8600	282	42	0 6	..	4	..	2 9 7
5	30	5	1432	339	29473	2246	327	1 4½	..	10	8	6 7 1
6	34	4	2393	324	43558	3883	922	1 3	140	75	23	9 16 2
7	72	9	4373	1284	103598	5081	1037	..	..	72	22	13 1 3
8	55	4	2948	335	44402	1336	988	0 4	..	5	..	9 1 4
9	54	11	4004	916	57008	3930	737	1 0	132	57	77	13 11 8
	451	62	28294	5876	489656	30748	7000	..	893	492	236	90 5 6
	462	62	27825	5534	415818	27510	6507	..	848	458	275	82 7 9
1	58	7	3921	719	56885	3137	801	0 9½	..	60	20	14 11 2
2	39	8	2607	639	52821	4865	568	1 5	195	101	9	8 14 4
3	46	7	2685	580	57666	4606	573	1 4	..	94	2	7 12 1
4	72	20	4776	2118	101851	7898	765	1 3	121	191	46	14 6 5
5	53	17	3692	1433	79812	5038	706	1 1½	84	97	54	9 14 6
6	27	4	2026	429	32109	1703	329	0 9	36	32	23	5 6 4
7	122	12	6769	1559	127026	9479	1501	1 1	172	224	57	28 10 0
8	5	3	384	160	9926	412	84	..	..	9	..	2 1 8
9	448	91	25323	10749	444940	39639	8731	1 3½	1376	668	89	81 15 1
10	20	3	767	125	15827	836	160	0 10	16	15	44	2 7 10
11	10	3	755	106	12552	725	52	1 0	69	16	1	2 1 7
12	20	4	1228	272	24044	1244	301	0 11½	..	23	27	3 12 0
13	183	27	14600	2958	188700	12696	2541	1 0	..	213	117	38 0 8
14	39	6	2379	615	48256	3208	544	1 1½	..	47	20	8 7 5
	1142	221	71912	22462	1252420	95486	17746	..	2069	1790	509	227 1 1
15	1	..	78	..	21628	356	24	..	250	..	..	....
16	2	4	153	259	1022	196	..	..	..	..	..	....
	1145	225	72143	22721	1275070	96038	17770	..	2319	1790	509	227 1 1
	1080	256	62260	22197	1068738	82670	16238	..	2058	1730	606	191 16 2
	1	..	76	..	21588	460	24	..	..	..	..	....
	..	6	..	376	797	122	..	..	..	..	..	....
	1081	262	62336	22573	1091123	83252	16262	..	2058	1730	606	191 16 2
1	4	1	192	47	6040	320	18	1 0	10	..	..	0 15 7
2	20	4	1081	306	27892	2984	440	1 6	..	20	21	4 12 6
3	10	4	480	253	13044	736	98	1 1½	..	18	3	2 5 5
4	9	..	353	..	12987	882	97	1 6	..	..	..	....
5	53	7	2680	827	69128	5575	596	1 4½	..	108	16	9 18 0
6	26	6	1499	418	28589	1284	228	1 0	20	..	12	5 1 8
7	15	3	796	192	17723	1023	124	1 4	..	..	9	2 11 0
8	27	5	2159	574	49017	3050	835	1 1	..	45	9	8 18 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
WILTS AND DORSET DISTRICT—con.									
Trowbridge	4782	56524	12460	3300	15890	17303	12446	32662	297 0
Warminster	785	5605	1295	988	2379	1651	..	4710	313 10
Weymouth	4250	29401	1653	1214	19078	12002	450	5403	1205 11
† Wilton	290	3257	..	170	743	772	286	1977	120 12
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	18394	152488	28159	10806	65560	50569	16982	80103	5509
Productive Society— Sherston Co-op. Milling..	49	479	452	187	91	538	..	330	616 13
District Total for 1917	18443	152967	28611	10993	65660	51107	16982	80433	6125
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	16305	137691	24093	11100	58141	50330	14141	67003	7337
<i>Productive Society Total for previous year (1916)</i>	41	434	816	137	216	531	..	278	785
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	16436	138125	24909	11237	58357	50861	14141	67281	8122
No. 7—OXFORD DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Aldermaston	107	606	75	81	574	90	..	681	330 1
Banbury	6021	84776	6797	4825	26571	27186	11954	42438	3504 2
Carterton (Agric. and Dist.)	116	836	..	74	466	429	..	223	34 3
Chipping Norton	2531	44771	2548	1579	11711	11295	4168	26775	1170 4
High Wycombe	1172	5635	1251	102	2780	3940	..	1060	350 5
Kingshill	1849	4314	441	125	1293	4356	340	1776	261 6
Maidenhead	1058	3638	2300	65	1621	4689	..	537	232 7
* Middleton Stoney									8
New Swindon Industrial.	5976	53521	11759	3692	36189	16607	588	23594	273 9
Oxford	12013	120869	12815	8436	48166	29736	37027	39276	2638 10
Reading	11819	192961	6694	2966	36790	52789	37977	83721	6890 11
Slough	2712	18367	4645	481	13063	7928	1582	2418	.. 12
Sunningdale	356	723	409	171	1100	88	..	263	125 13
Windsor	1380	8313	1073	358	4495	3719	..	2072	410 14
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	47110	539420	50807	22955	184819	162852	93636	224834	16217
Productive Societies— New Swindon Provident. Oxford Builders	3371 48	5126 611	1074 406	883 126	687 194	5057 161	.. 424	46 200	4752 178 15
Produce. Socs. Total for 1917	3419	5737	2380	1000	881	5218	424	246	4930
District Total for 1917	50529	545157	53187	23964	185700	168070	94060	225080	21147
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	42903	408919	46309	17989	158914	168792	97578	188169	19171
<i>Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	3306	5557	1879	909	1095	5022	608	313	4223
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	46209	504476	48188	18088	160000	173814	98186	188482	23394
No. 8—CAMBRIDGE DIST.— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Arlesey	627	6433	25	865	709	1173	1576	5021	22 1
Bishop's Stortford	389	1526	1498	150	1263	1664	..	639	146 2
Burwell	309	1350	9	201	704	292	..	968	21 3
Cambridge	7903	64566	10660	6467	26133	27407	886	38074	338 4
Chatteris	546	4889	..	323	1526	557	..	3614	293 5
Ely	1253	7756	728	418	4818	9637	..	1903	320 6
Garden City Co-operators	895	3960	1021	63	1318	3150	..	575	335 7
Hitchin	509	2159	743	168	1751	765	..	832	176 8
Newmarket	1850	21184	1806	837	8275	8551	214	8726	842 9

* No recent figures available.

† Nine months' trading.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
9	107	19	6692	1577	138038	11966	2182	1 5	..	85	99	23 18 0
10	14	4	772	247	23938	1612	194	1 3½	..	11	11	3 19 6
11	92	17	4994	2555	108937	6871	1400	1 0	116	30	38	19 10 0
12	6	1	210	60	6743	673	114	1 4½	..	..	6	1 9 0
	383	71	21908	7146	502076	36976	6326	..	146	306	224	82 18 8
13	..	4	..	172	6923	121	6	0 6	8	..	3	0 5 0
	383	75	21908	7318	508999	37097	6332	..	154	306	227	83 3 8
	354	73	19068	6703	426147	38157	5490	..	120	290	267	78 6 3
	..	4	..	155	6590	114	22	..	..	..	1	0 5 0
	354	77	19068	6858	432737	38271	5512	..	120	290	268	78 11 3
1	3	1	246	86	7055	291	33	1 1	..	..	..	..
2	114	61	7783	4015	192940	16328	3205	1 4½	..	351	86	29 5 7
3	3	..	154	..	4208	257	37	1 2	..	5	3	0 10 0
4	69	19	4162	1113	98598	10820	1974	1 7	..	96	212	12 10 0
5	19	3	1287	259	19006	728	248	0 6½	..	12	7	5 14 7
6	13	10	1044	1016	25329	2430	201	1 10½	..	..	4	..
7	16	3	869	272	15133	517	153	0 6	23	6	1	4 1 0
8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
9	102	25	7307	1895	154578	16097	2265	1 7	346	339	29	26 14 0
10	221	33	12789	2993	261603	29175	5824	1 8	..	608	139	59 2 4
11	222	86	17682	7602	301465	24846	7540	1 0½	860	472	122	56 11 6
12	59	8	3053	759	61011	3060	821	0 9	60	59	30	12 2 9
13	6	2	479	166	7804	451	30	1 0	..	9	1	1 6 0
14	24	2	1578	246	24865	1228	360	0 7	25	23	20	6 5 0
	871	253	58433	20422	1173595	106228	22691	..	1314	1980	654	214 12 9
15	15	12	1433	1299	43733	4674	240	2 1	..	..	7	..
16	..	7	..	565	879	11	29	..	..	3	2	0 6 6
	15	19	1433	1864	44612	4685	269	..	..	3	9	0 6 6
	886	272	59866	22286	1218207	110913	22060	..	1314	1983	663	214 19 3
	864	247	51901	19544	1016059	103279	21269	..	1390	1784	1568	197 6 3
	16	21	1112	1638	33523	5153	267	..	..	3	8	0 6 6
	880	268	53013	21182	1049582	108432	21536	..	1390	1787	1576	197 12 9
1	10	3	416	253	18696	1695	247	1 6½	..	..	..	3 5 0
2	8	2	480	108	6883	357	69	0 10	..	7	2	1 18 8
3	5	..	326	..	7976	802	62	2 8	..	..	3	1 11 3
4	173	26	10640	2462	178594	16537	2925	1 4½	..	166	58	38 13 0
5	9	2	585	134	14188	1474	206	1 9½	..	..	..	2 14 9
6	21	5	1373	314	32279	1818	325	1 1	..	10	8	6 5 0
7	20	4	907	250	18920	867	178	0 9	..	34	6	3 16 0
8	6	2	466	88	10211	584	88	1 0	17	8	2	2 9 6
9	66	6	3474	572	52949	4071	922	1 3	..	70	19	8 17 7

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Property.	All other Invest- ments.		
CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT—con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Potton	378	4201	..	472	710	534	..	3860	..	10
St. Neots	467	1160	985	186	1694	797	..	290	118	11
Saffron Walden	681	2943	343	192	869	1483	..	1259	120	12
Sawston	1188	10749	1053	969	5791	2473	488	4874	152	13
Soham	189	806	362	40	596	430	..	456	90	14
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	17184	133772	19233	11351	56357	52913	3164	70401	2883	
Productive Society— Garden City Press	188	8852	11086	250	3091	12898	..	436	2914	15
District Total for 1917	17372	142624	30319	11601	59448	65811	3164	70927	5797	
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	15985	121057	18098	10328	51841	53731	3256	55170	3094	
<i>Productive Society Total for previous year (1916)</i>	175	8852	10360	..	3196	10443	..	171	4908	
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	16160	120909	28458	10328	55037	64174	3256	55341	8902	
No. 9—NORFOLK DIST.— Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Beccles	2122	16452	11619	1054	13148	7909	1628	8188	1528	1
Brandon	325	1425	706	272	1065	848	..	1107	232	2
Bury St. Edmunds	1316	6079	50	276	4607	1865	..	1885	410	3
Cromer	630	2158	38	489	1642	209	..	1639	..	4
Diss	503	2908	..	650	916	31	..	2777	211	5
Fakenham	526	2586	36	356	970	108	..	2575	31	6
Great Yarmouth	2474	10642	2592	1268	4922	7287	..	5202	164	7
King's Lynn	3126	6798	6888	843	5804	5542	1259	5760	278	8
Lakenheath	171	459	153	92	596	281	..	352	..	9
Lowestoft	2449	18863	4007	1293	13037	10683	..	1906	448	10
Melton Constable	450	2936	31	72	1753	1031	..	442	..	11
Norwich	10946	134571	11659	9942	36107	36454	8311	85192	..	12
Sheringham	622	4838	26	853	1632	960	..	3651	230	13
Swaffham	590	2620	119	321	1681	489	..	1132	165	14
Thetford	1449	7966	838	712	7452	1883	..	3440	13	15
Wymondham	684	5446	486	354	3250	1584	..	1400	606	16
District Total for 1917	28883	226747	39248	18847	98582	77164	11198	126648	4316	
Totals, previous year (1916)	26755	212727	37421	18419	97055	76983	11768	112875	5431	
No. 10—ESSEX & SUFFOLK DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Braintree & West Essex	1784	18611	3618	918	7030	7087	1321	8458	200	1
Chelmsford Star	4340	52058	164	3300	23169	14206	1844	20598	753	2
Clacton	819	6680	311	2021	1181	1501	..	6877	37	3
Coggeshall	359	1935	516	180	938	812	143	795	195	4
Colchester	9792	112979	6001	7968	29739	33794	27349	50349	79	5
Dunmow	244	1702	53	83	1098	35	..	1034	60	6
Earls Colne	346	4212	535	39	669	132	401	2616	48	7
Halstead	1793	15399	3422	1690	6896	4921	4004	5730	310	8
Harwich, Dovercourt, & Parkstone	1965	21537	1292	2377	13782	7849	2061	3465	630	9
Haverhill	1886	12289	19564	2648	10616	12830	1091	12751	533	10
Ipswich	13598	171711	20856	13257	64505	69820	7402	80807	325	11
Lavenham	173	504	440	78	363	193	..	639	..	12
Leiston	1192	12223	79	814	4104	2103	3052	5844	..	13
Maldon and Heybridge	1422	10138	1761	939	7891	4475	164	1345	..	14
Stowmarket	1981	4613	4409	2434	7177	4817	..	2037	..	15
Terling	194	1453	899	147	412	13	..	2352	..	16

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
10	7	..	358	..	8007	935	162	1 7½	..	18	5	1 15 4
11	9	2	588	85	11208	537	49	1 0	..	..	2	2 0 6
12	8	2	451	234	10968	530	128	0 9	..	5	7	3 4 10
13	24	5	1264	385	29092	1597	381	0 10½	..	18	7	6 2 6
14	4	..	186	..	4749	307	38	1 8	..	..	..	....
	370	59	21514	4885	405320	32111	5780	..	17	336	119	82 19 11
15	..	71	..	5501	12091	£213	..	..	..	..	5	1 0 0
	370	130	21514	10386	417411	†32111	5780	..	17	336	124	83 19 11
	361	58	19877	4298	347877	29165	4789	..	22	311	119	78 13 10
	..	120	..	6332	15116	£161	220	..	..	..	..	1 1 0
	361	178	19877	10540	362993	29165	5009	..	22	311	119	79 14 10
1	52	10	2786	535	72202	6346	745	1 7	..	70	41	9 17 0
2	5	3	352	104	12889	1783	65	2 6	..	..	6	1 15 5
3	23	4	1428	229	29155	2423	214	1 6	..	..	15	7 3 3
4	12	2	811	119	16603	1078	91	1 3	18	24	4	3 1 8
5	8	3	624	102	14610	1313	132	1 6	..	..	12	2 10 0
6	11	..	553	..	13322	1110	114	1 6	..	23	5	2 14 2
7	50	8	2597	754	48951	4153	473	1 3	..	37	8	1 1 0
8	65	11	3572	740	67600	6395	258	1 8	75	116	23	14 14 10
9	3	..	148	..	4600	321	21	1 6	..	..	1	....
10	82	19	4451	1060	72756	4654	823	1 2	103	115	44	11 6 8
11	10	..	581	..	9030	533	130	0 10	10	7	2	2 1 8
12	313	38	19833	2962	375709	35906	6106	1 6	1588	402	116	54 12 4
13	9	7	637	231	15809	1422	216	1 8	..	30	7	3 2 4
14	11	4	580	96	14039	761	124	1 0	..	..	10	2 19 10
15	36	6	1946	311	46577	7767	332	..	..	..	189	7 4 2
16	14	2	816	131	21044	1674	233	1 5	56	35	6	3 2 6
	704	117	41715	7374	834896	77639	10077	..	1850	859	489	127 6 10
	716	115	36876	7356	746974	76530	9470	..	1871	816	369	120 13 0
1	42	8	2248	447	46137	3426	666	1 2	..	71	6	8 6 8
2	121	20	6903	1619	132248	12288	2438	..	..	..	31	21 8 0
3	11	5	716	331	20228	2115	278	1 4	..	27	8	3 13 5
4	5	4	357	170	9342	713	85	1 6	..	..	..	1 18 6
5	346	65	13480	4851	244693	19538	4637	1 3	..	273	297	48 3 4
6	4	..	239	..	5707	355	78	1 0	..	8	1	1 5 7
7	3	2	282	124	9304	642	173	0 11	10	6	1	1 13 2
8	41	11	2373	551	40687	2235	715	0 9	..	30	68	8 14 4
9	106	18	6396	1119	113030	6258	1001	1 1	132	173	130	9 11 0
10	55	33	3098	2331	78485	6646	574	1 7	..	40	24	9 14 2
11	380	79	22717	6955	467768	37337	7789	1 2½	..	802	622	66 12 0
12	2	..	117	..	3920	267	24	1 6	..	..	..	....
13	22	..	1077	..	30496	3111	436	1 9	..	..	23	6 5 0
14	42	9	2178	745	36005	2719	402	1 3	..	61	34	6 16 11
15	45	7	2777	452	44816	2488	180	0 9½	49	85	20	8 6 11
16	2	..	164	..	4800	490	66	1 4½	..	..	..	....

£ Less. † Before deducting the loss of £213.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Property.	All other Investments.		
ESSEX & SUFFOLK DLS. Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Tiptree.....	804	5926	143	169	2700	2527	330	1276	160	17
Wickham Market	564	3724	312	20	1303	1379	600	1224	100	18
Witham	889	11786	1171	1232	4166	2362	3145	6320	116	19
Woodbridge	509	1317	..	309	1786	558	..	282	..	20
Retail Soc's. Total for 1917	44654	470797	65546	40623	189525	172634	52967	214799	3636	
Special Society— Mersea Isl'nd Fisherm'n's	86	168	..	74	42	32	..	243	4	21
District Total for 1917	44740	470965	65546	40697	189567	172666	52967	215042	3640	
<i>Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)</i>	41792	430809	57731	39960	175101	171898	56482	174815	7384	
<i>Special Society Total for previous year (1916)</i>	86	141	..	43	42	14	..	176	24	
<i>District Total for previous year (1916)</i>	41878	430950	57731	40003	175143	171912	56482	174991	7408	
NO. 11—BEDS. AND BUCKS. DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Aylesbury	1370	12984	478	997	4758	5389	254	5046	327	1
Bedford	2497	11124	2413	766	5387	5707	1763	3460	..	2
Berkhamstead	1221	15285	5341	1425	7148	6728	6305	3191	596	3
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford	1112	11957	740	630	4850	4047	1028	4122	183	4
Grandborough	42	27	..	107	62	..	..	187	..	5
Hemel Hempstead (Boro' of)	931	5739	804	242	3081	2571	..	2237	188	6
Leighton Buzzard	934	9812	321	414	1911	2040	2779	4652	331	7
Luton	6732	84970	18437	4347	17696	15633	20299	61170	70	8
Newport Pagnell	693	4564	1303	200	3307	2222	136	878	346	9
Olney	344	778	233	30	1388	161	..	367	133	10
Radlett	240	2469	..	859	1134	1600	..	907	293	11
Ravenstone	63	226	..	85	144	5	..	186	7	12
St. Albans	2000	10157	470	534	3880	4332	..	4561	365	13
Silsoe	309	1218	..	232	1173	44	..	599	41	14
Stony Stratford	880	15787	1194	276	4318	4063	..	9327	235	15
Swanbourne	89	171	103	94	482	..	..	61	86	16
Tring	1039	16018	1155	450	2448	3041	6725	6092	282	17
Wolverton	2440	41982	13107	2161	19782	10197	7994	23305	1187	18
District Total for 1917	22936	245268	46099	13849	82949	67780	47343	130348	4670	
Totals, previous year (1916)	20864	224759	44198	12403	71936	69770	52321	107170	5730	

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
17	10	3	886	160	18119	1095	265	1 0	..	..	5	4 3 0
18	10	4	576	250	14118	457	175	1 1	..	11	6	2 12 5
19	22	2	1453	237	26184	2652	550	1 6	31	53	37	4 9 0
20	6	2	456	208	10292	774	51	1 4	..	..	..	....
21	1281	272	68553	20550	1356370	105615	20583	..	222	1640	1313	213 14 2
	2	..	94	..	1708	183	6	..	..	5	1	....
	1283	272	68647	20550	1358087	105798	20580	..	222	1645	1314	213 14 2
	1179	298	62748	20111	1192547	108417	17231	..	200	1612	1145	200 15 4
	2	..	73	..	952	114	4	..	..	3	1	....
	1181	298	62821	20111	1193490	108531	17235	..	200	1615	1146	200 15 4
1	22	6	1554	533	34774	2886	553	1 3	..	52	3	6 3 6
2	50	6	3088	681	59402	3600	531	1 0	..	77	..	12 7 5
3	37	10	1949	701	49591	4095	664	1 3	..	75	26	5 13 0
4	19	10	1414	519	35466	2233	541	1 1 1/2	..	45	12	5 9 9
5	1	..	52	..	1023	90	1	1 0	2	..	..	....
6	20	2	1307	265	23668	1653	242	1 2	..	34	18	3 16 4
7	13	2	603	162	19770	2274	422	1 6	..	5	..	4 9 7
8	123	14	8102	1489	187614	17193	3753	1 4	220	326	77	33 0 5
9	14	2	965	167	17265	1255	192	1 2	..	11	4	3 8 2
10	6	2	361	182	6913	124	19	0 7 1/2	..	1	3	1 12 4
11	11	2	890	104	13813	621	118	1 0	..	..	..	....
12	1	..	75	..	1793	164	9	2 0	..	..	..	0 7 1
13	37	5	2324	586	43954	3106	443	1 2	..	60	2	8 17 1
14	4	2	276	91	6216	348	56	1 0	5	2	4	1 11 6
15	19	4	1459	335	28568	2378	726	1 3	..	27	29	4 7 6
16	2	..	148	..	2944	220	8	1 8	..	..	..	0 10 0
17	25	4	1180	181	25698	1609	606	0 10	..	..	12	5 6 0
18	68	20	4753	1891	106166	11458	1929	1 9	..	152	10	12 4 7
	472	91	30590	7887	664638	55307	10813	..	227	867	200	109 4 3
	419	115	26191	8230	558637	52183	9833	..	187	878	184	92 8 10

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin-ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
								House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	
No. 1—NORTH METRO- POLITAN	28	142420	£ 1411366	£ 198700	£ 193160	£ 752638	£ 687768	£ 94638	£ 549288	£ 56601
„ 2—SOUTH METRO- POLITAN	13	97840	970403	99986	104529	333461	430696	66905	473524	11272
„ 3—KENT	20	53612	566032	97009	36750	254584	192262	45376	280137	15240
„ 4—SUSSEX	9	18882	163330	37010	8882	62662	68764	89016	54681	9313
„ 5—HANTS	16	49264	397060	72408	24965	216606	178978	28270	123754	8640
„ 6—WILTS. AND DORSET	13	18443	162967	28611	10493	65660	51107	16982	80433	6125
„ 7—OXFORD	16	50629	545157	53187	23964	185700	168070	94060	225080	21147
„ 8—CAMBRIDGE	15	17372	142624	30819	11601	59448	65811	3164	70927	5797
„ 9—NORFOLK	16	28383	226747	39248	18847	98582	77164	11198	126648	4316
„ 10—ESSEX AND SUFFOLK	21	44740	470965	65546	40697	189567	172666	52967	215042	8640
„ 11—BEDS. AND BUCKS.,	18	22936	245268	46099	13849	82949	67780	47343	130348	4670
Totals, 1917.....	185	544421	5291919	768123	488237	2301857	2161066	499919	2329862	146801
Totals, 1916.....	189	495261	4956251	732471	560383	2105786	2147562	595893	2175329	286476
Increase .....	..	49160	335668	35652	..	196071	13504	..	154533	..
Decrease	4	..	..	..	72146	..	..	95974	..	139675

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c.,

Retail Distrib. Societies ..	169	531847	£ 4903528	£ 654176	£ 350927	£ 1957764	£ 1922245	£ 474748	£ 2187510	£ 86448	
Productive Societies	13	4800	33825	37707	9174	14901	37531	599	16781	22228	
Supply Association	1	7559	353920	75752	126904	328795	201258	24572	123913	36140	
Special Societies	2	215	646	488	1232	397	32	..	1658	1985	
Total for Section (1917) ..	185	544421	5291919	768123	488237	2301857	2161066	499919	2329362	146801	

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c., of
given for purposes of comparison. See also Introduction to

Retail Distrib. Socs. Totals for previous year (1916) ..	170	482085	£ 4553273	£ 627957	£ 329166	£ 1742433	£ 1868501	£ 567956	£ 1960324	£ 110045	
Productive Societies Totals for previous year (1916) ..	14	4935	86041	89798	9170	15763	43313	3970	7812	22476	
† Supply Associations Totals for previous year (1916) ..	2	7906	366347	61285	221036	347219	236874	24567	205291	151181	
† Special Societies Totals for previous year (1916)	3	335	1590	4031	1011	371	3874	..	1402	3774	
Total for Section for pre- vious year (1916)	189	495261	4956251	732471	560383	2105786	2147562	595893	2175329	286476	

SOUTHERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
1	4489	717	£ 347402	£ 88818	£ 4835546	£ 276348	£ 50616	£ 1683	£ 2908	£ 1428	£ s. d. 657 1 9
2	2291	392	167525	46357	2638473	181778	58827	4496	2865	749	455 5 4
3	1417	316	90176	25903	1703549	181266	24901	648	1179	1225	248 17 0
4	451	62	28294	5876	498656	30748	7000	893	492	236	90 5 6
5	1145	225	72148	22721	1275070	96038	17770	2319	1790	509	227 1 1
6	383	75	21908	7318	50-999	37097	6332	154	306	227	83 3 8
7	886	272	59866	22286	1218207	110913	22960	1314	1983	663	214 19 3
8	370	130	21514	10386	417411	32111	5780	17	536	124	83 19 11
9	704	117	41715	7374	834896	77639	10077	1850	859	489	127 6 10
10	1283	272	68647	20550	1358087	105798	20589	222	1645	1314	213 14 2
11	472	91	30590	7887	664638	55307	10313	227	867	200	109 4 8
	13891	2669	949780	265476	15944532	1135043	215665	13823	15230	7164	2510 18 9
	13096	2986	897937	264756	15957908	1146263	196698	13651	15663	8433	2282 6 4
	795	..	51843	720	..	..	18967	172	..	..	228 12 5
	..	317	..	..	13376	11220	..	..	433	1269	..

of various classes of Societies for Year 1917.

12203	2804	£ 804142	£ 233887	£ 14102269	£ 1063872	£ 214956	£ 12489	£ 15114	£ 6896	£ s. d. 2468 2 1
42	207	3687	20538	156273	13397	679	1084	111	148	3 12 8
1643	158	141779	21051	1662654	57235	..	..	..	119	39 4 0
3	..	172	..	23386	539	30	250	5	1	..
18891	2669	949780	265476	15944532	1135043	215665	13823	15230	7164	2510 18 9

various classes of Societies for previous Year (1916),

Statistics for Tables showing increases of membership, &c.

11560	2509	£ 717488	£ 220332	£ 12425005	£ 1043459	£ 195107	£ 13050	£ 15583	£ 8129	£ s. d. 2233 10 7
55	274	4366	23653	147094	11100	894	601	77	95	4 14 8
1454	203	175434	20771	3359428	91130	621	..	..	208	44 1 6
27	..	654	..	26381	574	76	..	3	1	..
13096	2986	897937	264756	15957908	1146263	196698	13651	15663	8433	2282 6 4

† Includes Canteen and Mess Society (London).

† Includes Motor Cab Society (London).

SOUTH-WESTERN**RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in
arranged in their**

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
No. 1—CORNWALL—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Bodmin	618	1932	257	164	975	1071	..	435	182	1
Camborne	1631	5500	1275	578	3890	3630	..	899	64	2
Delabole	792	3963	..	519	2006	740	266	2987	..	3
East Cornwall	102	782	..	347	420	187	..	641	104	4
Falmouth	425	372	7	183	598	34	..	199	179	5
Liskeard, St. Cleer & Dist.	1811	11096	950	634	4820	4221	828	5180	35	6
Lostwithiel	343	1512	244	86	1003	955	..	223	107	7
Menheniot	255	921	555	305	736	107	308	750	90	8
Pensilva	167	1270	50	13	555	642	..	157	50	9
Penzance	1924	5388	746	427	4479	354	..	2809	419	10
Roche	183	328	..	18	318	66	..	361	37	11
St. Austell	1342	3499	9	202	2263	804	..	629	405	12
St. Blazey	432	2350	150	235	1350	713	..	1169	..	13
St. Columb Road	846	3402	493	603	2090	1997	359	1963	..	14
Saltash	1272	8170	389	2064	2594	2757	841	6816	117	15
Tokenbury Corner Coal ..	231	228	100	..	205	..	..	242	56	16
Truro	332	699	829	..	969	497	..	847	..	17
Wadebridge	469	2178	495	183	1483	1216	..	447	80	18
District Total for 1917	13175	54190	6549	6561	30754	19991	2602	26754	1925	
District Total for previous year (1916)	10840	45472	9546	5782	29543	18428	2718	20295	2216	
No. 2—DEVON—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Ashburton	260	547	250	207	839	451	..	223	116	1
Axminster	111	104	12	..	229	19	..	163	30	2
Bideford	546	968	753	70	674	715	..	539	163	3
Bovey Tracey	737	4677	165	592	2383	513	..	2048	122	4
Brixham	1288	12600	868	1173	7367	5034	380	4166	466	5
Buckfastleigh	1040	17221	1705	1661	5804	6450	2033	7652	..	6
Budleigh Salterton	271	1029	300	93	541	499	..	491	..	7
Colyton	137	322	100	..	312	390	..	186	81	8
Cornwood	243	781	327	444	1062	575	..	399	19	9
Cullompton	198	2157	299	26	1128	474	281	766	30	10
Dartmouth	559	1882	596	257	1137	1103	247	558	..	11
Exeter	5487	32600	3604	819	13574	20486	2176	4361	421	12
Exmouth	1190	6999	34	349	2341	1538	..	3772	..	13
Honiton	344	1556	471	89	641	1376	..	340	16	14
Ilfracombe	232	482	362	99	302	490	..	251	..	15
Kingswear	217	690	6	309	482	278	..	589	..	16
*Lee Moor .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Moreton Hampstead	400	2002	..	243	2180	335	..	481	95	18
Newton Abbot	2206	18381	3204	1799	9853	5427	1587	9176	614	19
North Tawton	138	341	215	53	273	70	..	489	..	20
Okehampton	611	2194	47	224	1684	337	..	781	193	21
Paignton	2493	18043	2855	2201	15641	7948	..	4535	360	22
Plymouth Mutual	55760	585882	79176	119067	295102	382280	114111	58336	327	23
Plympton	1002	3923	2288	310	3764	3241	768	619	212	24

SECTION.

the Counties of CORNWALL, DEVON, and SOMERSET, for 1917,
respective Counties.

from the Registrar's Return for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to
the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Inter- est on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per %.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	7	2	345	154	9058	457	85	1 0	..	5	5	2 10 0	
2	32	2	1216	108	37633	2428	209	1 3	6	5	4	5 4 2	
3	10	..	660	..	24934	1976	190	2 6	..	12	27	3 16 0	
4	1	..	81	..	3424	211	33	1 10	..	..	..	..
5	6	3	245	163	8841	319	18	1 0	..	..	..	0 7 0
6	31	4	1664	257	39855	2964	551	1 5	..	10	23	8 11 6	
7	6	..	276	..	8671	445	41	1 2½	..	3	4	1 4 4	
8	4	..	216	..	5527	366	39	1 6	..	2	10	1 6 0	
9	2	..	147	..	3755	185	63	0 11	..	..	..	0 14 9
10	33	5	1356	370	40041	2298	213	0 11	..	25	14	6 0 0	
11	3	..	132	..	3396	158	17	1 3	..	..	..	0 16 0
12	17	..	918	..	24720	1024	155	..	..	1	12	7 1 6
13	9	..	384	..	10115	854	107	1 5½	..	10	3	1 19 6	
14	11	..	765	..	21029	1362	150	1 8	..	10	21	4 19 6	
15	24	3	1373	412	33626	3038	302	2 3	75	68	11	6 5 0	
16	2	..	111	..	1121	46	7	1 8	..	..	..	..
17	3	..	170	..	12987	193	17	1 0	..	..	1	1 12 3
18	7	..	385	..	7947	549	97	1 6	..	..	8	2 7 11
208			19	10444	1464	296680	19773	2294	..	81	146	143	54 15 5
180			17	8489	974	227888	16740	1910	..	76	133	140	46 7 3
1	4	..	294	..	6163	103	12	1 0	..	..	..	0 0 5
2	1	..	81	..	2265	34	1	1 0	..	..	..	2 7 11
3	1	3	338	186	10663	743	34	1 6	..	..	5	3 15 1
4	21	3	1158	269	21807	253	57	1 6	..	..	..	6 2 6
5	36	8	1413	376	39284	3394	557	1 6	..	..	26	4 18 5
6	20	18	1470	737	44049	3630	781	1 1½	..	63	22	0 19 5	
7	4	..	161	..	3678	244	40	1 0	4	..	..	0 11 10
8	2	..	180	..	3259	157	5	0 6	..	..	..	1 4 1
9	6	2	264	170	7399	550	37	1 6	9	..	3	2 18 10	
10	3	2	118	82	4178	320	97	1 2½	..	1	2	4 8 1	
11	9	2	342	175	8599	497	74	1 0	..	7	..	22 9 2	
12	82	18	4890	1383	76774	5607	1410	1 0	79	109	56	5 2 0	
13	7	4	467	302	15458	1064	332	1 0	17	20	..	1 10 0	
14	3	2	183	66	4747	254	66	0 8	..	..	3	2 4 2
15	3	..	152	..	2814	151	19	0 9	..	..	2	0 16 10
16	3	3	101	62	4967	426	29	1 6	5	13	4	0 16 8	
17	11	2	482	151	11769	579	91	1 3	..	3	..	10 4 2	
18	49	9	2656	622	57920	5200	864	1 6	..	15	53	0 13 2	
19	1	..	56	..	2845	201	15	1 4	4	2	1	2 9 9	
20	8	2	579	114	13441	847	87	1 6	..	34	5	11 1 8	
21	61	7	3570	554	70916	5413	797	1 7½	..	70	42	272 1 10	
22	608	558	94376	43185	1424108	138578	28774	1 6	4730	3026	1137	5 1 0	
23	28	..	1424	..	27303	829	42	1 1	..	..	..	..

Per ton.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.					Owing to the Society for Goods.
		Share Capital.	Loans including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.				
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
DEVON—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
S'dmouth	600	4567	417	431	1778	1868	..	1752	59	25	
South Molton	625	2643	320	215	1010	282	..	2151	..	25	
Tavistock	762	3156	277	345	2233	1371	104	954	..	27	
Teignmouth	1074	6387	838	456	3253	2510	..	2970	51	28	
Tiverton	982	6470	1843	..	3706	4029	..	1221	118	29	
Torquay	4059	48775	7536	3132	16541	21508	5311	19084	607	30	
Torrington	434	1135	..	201	1178	20	..	471	8	31	
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	34006	788514	108868	134865	397012	471626	128098	124724	4108		
Productive Society:— Plymouth Printers	213	1666	1047	86	911	2080	..	60	810	32	
District Total for 1917	34219	790180	109915	134951	397923	473715	128098	124784	4927		
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	74849	311814	94140	134730	376107	455208	130731	104981	5180		
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	214	1361	1001	112	484	2681	..	35	629		
District Total for previous year (1916)	75033	313175	95141	134842	376591	457889	130731	105026	5809		
No. 3.—SOMERSET—											
Retail Distrib. Societies—											
*Bath	1545	6799	3001	86	2875	5853	..	1375	515	1	
Bridgwater	2734	17563	6038	1556	9238	6105	4743	7165	1603	2	
Bristol	21816	191302	27174	18964	76995	81536	268	104614	9974	3	
Bruton	690	2717	1318	294	2931	1423	193	660	340	4	
Butleigh	235	1943	62	120	1308	165	..	829	128	5	
Chard	2478	33947	31	2097	12377	6160	8930	12698	928	6	
Cheyton Mendip	137	385	333	93	790	72	..	144	12	7	
Coleford (Highbury)	845	7446	1343	386	3748	2653	..	3532	142	8	
dCrewkerne	735	6096	140	300	3262	2537	..	762	457	9	
East Harptree	148	855	85	319	1396	8	..	185	38	10	
Frome	1578	12275	3270	572	6347	5540	..	6271	232	11	
Minehead	383	890	19	112	529	..	..	655	25	12
Oakhill	209	1565	25	261	1048	292	..	450	73	13	
Portishead	810	4693	1644	365	3654	2483	777	809	254	14	
Radstock	6864	65429	20660	3038	37400	23522	10301	23781	..	15	
Shepton Mallet	869	5033	926	749	3948	2746	231	1127	1059	16	
Stoke-under-Ham	368	1447	794	170	999	1165	..	423	156	17	
Street Industrial	891	5337	2664	476	2274	1522	249	3104	701	18	
Taunton	2718	30959	539	1455	10886	6484	13618	7348	..	19	
Templecombe	303	1504	145	222	868	660	..	594	37	20	
Twerton-on-Avon	5186	32779	8863	2479	22310	16006	4757	6058	1034	21	
Wellington	1580	26823	720	556	9028	3196	4233	12940	646	22	
Wells	312	792	4	..	263	..	..	871	..	23
Weston-super-Mare	1032	7104	1784	425	2659	2338	1956	3151	208	24	
Yeovil	2858	16686	4546	1624	8675	6376	1856	9685	414	25	
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	57356	482369	86142	36719	225727	178847	52202	209531	18976		
Productive Society:— Bristol Printers	68	646	320	162	549	475	..	150	264	26	
District Total for 1917	57424	483015	86471	36881	226276	179322	52202	209681	19240		
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	50809	419669	75867	31416	172571	171830	61063	170427	18484		
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	66	601	260	123	212	464	..	181	203		
District Total for previous year (1916)	50875	420270	76127	31530	172783	172204	61063	170608	18687		

* No recent figures available. d 1915 figures.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.				Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital		Average Dividend per %.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.		
25	7	2	£ 535	£ 172	11464	£ 155	£ 49	s. d. 1 5½	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
26	8	4	324	186	8883	843	108	1 6	..	12	..	3 2 6	
27	12	3	520	204	15052	1246	134	1 9	..	..	2	3 0 4
28	19	2	1127	205	21637	1162	286	0 11	22	5	5	2 15 6	
29	14	3	592	175	12701	402	156	..	..	..	..	4 10 9
30	80	36	5824	3474	108614	8230	2233	1 1	..	125	50	4 13 0	
31	10	2	411	105	9691	1020	40	2 0	..	25	2	18 3 1	
32	2137	695	124097	52055	2052448	182132	37236	..	4874	3530	1427	1 16 3	
	..	21	..	1709	5242	113	64	0 0½	11	3	2	398 8 2	
	2137	716	124007	54664	2057690	182245	37300	..	4885	3533	1429	1 1 9	
	2195	587	91632	33774	1508079	181004	31587	..	1560	2553	965	399 9 11	
	..	15	..	1394	4532	138	63	..	33	6	5	419 12 1	
	2195	602	91632	35168	1512611	181142	31650	..	1593	2559	970	1 5 0	
1	14	3	1294	307	21925	887	309	0 8	..	8	..	420 17 1	
2	51	10	3077	672	68942	5875	779	1 4½	72	..	31	7 17 6	
3	550	56	39617	6753	547935	53271	8079	1 4	..	876	302	12 14 0	
4	16	4	744	222	16613	1177	148	1 6	..	..	1	102 11 6
5	2	1	222	84	6570	495	93	1 4	..	..	..	2 18 7
6	48	3	2445	370	57437	6958	1511	1 10½	..	..	24	..
7	3	..	169	..	4195	347	15	1 6	..	..	1	12 5 9
8	14	9	1061	509	32720	3511	304	1 11½	..	..	10	..
9	17	7	698	367	19406	1314	295	1 5	..	..	1	4 0 9
10	3	..	226	..	5777	476	40	2 0	..	..	..	..
11	26	8	1283	800	33972	2379	540	1 0	..	..	25	0 15 5
12	4	..	203	..	4821	347	38	1 0	..	..	2	6 8 1
13	5	2	235	145	6867	437	70	1 4	..	..	2	1 6 2
14	16	3	898	337	20856	1127	216	0 10½	..	..	6	1 2 7
15	201	28	10445	3297	249440	22692	2451	1 9	..	..	57	3 0 8
16	19	4	1069	255	22528	1287	195	1 2	..	..	3	30 18 8
17	5	4	267	249	9927	234	61	0 6	..	..	4	..
18	8	4	699	348	21633	745	128	1 6	..	..	..	1 13 6
19	48	9	2857	752	64190	6649	1426	1 8	74	60	10	..	
20	3	2	258	116	8072	515	69	1 4	8	..	5	13 7 3	
21	117	22	7753	2107	136219	10673	1355	1 3	..	219	35	1 9 4	
22	23	8	1391	481	40487	1384	592	1 4	..	..	..	23 10 0
23	5	1	199	21	3646	85	21	0 6	..	..	1	7 1 5
24	22	2	1016	263	18438	1268	305	0 10	18	15	12	..	
25	45	14	3255	860	64119	3823	731	1 0	..	78	4	4 12 7	
26	1265	204	81381	19315	1486735	127956	19771	..	172	1256	536	13 12 0	
	..	9	..	656	1676	200	31	0 4	21	3	..	251 11 9	
	1265	213	81381	19971	1488411	128156	19802	..	193	1259	536	0 6 10	
	111	249	65355	20134	1147366	112024	18071	..	152	1160	616	251 18 7	
	..	7	..	582	1456	108	27	..	27	4	..	233 6 5	
	111	256	65355	20716	1148822	112132	18098	..	179	1164	616	0 7 6	
												233 13 11	

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—CORNWALL	18	18175	54190	6549	6561	30754	19991	2602	26754	1925
„ 2—DEVON	32	84219	790180	109915	134951	397923	473715	128098	124784	4927
„ 3—SOMERSET.....	26	57424	489015	86471	36881	226276	179922	52202	200681	19240
Totals, 1917	76	154818	1327385	202935	178398	654953	673028	182902	361219	26092
Totals, 1916.....	77	156778	1278917	180339	172163	578917	648611	194512	385919	26712
Increase .....	..	18040	48468	22596	6230	76036	24417	..	..	..
Decrease	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	11610	24700	620

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c.,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	74	154587	1325073	201559	178145	653493	670464	182902	361009	25009
Productive Societies	2	281	2312	1376	248	1460	2564	..	210	1083
Total for Section ..	76	154818	1327385	202935	178398	654953	673028	182902	361219	26092

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c., of

given for purposes of comparison. See also Introduction to

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Socs. Total for previous year (1916) ..	75	136498	1276955	179078	171928	578221	645466	194512	385703	25880
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916) ..	2	280	1962	1261	235	696	3145	..	216	832
Total for Section for previous year (1916) ..	77	136778	1278917	180339	172163	578917	648611	194512	385919	26712

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. Stat.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
			£	£	£	£	£	£	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
1	208	19	10444	1464	296680	19773	2294	81	146	143	54 15 5
2	2137	716	124097	54664	2057690	182245	37300	4885	3583	1429	399 9 11
3	1265	213	81381	19971	1488411	128156	19802	193	1259	536	251 18 7
	3610	948	215922	76099	3842781	330174	59396	5159	4938	2108	706 3 11
	3486	875	165476	56858	2889321	310032	51658	1848	3856	1726	700 18 3
	124	78	50446	19241	953460	20142	7738	3311	1082	382	5 5 8

of various classes of Societies for Year 1917.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3610	918	215922	73734	3835863	329861	59301	5127	4932	2106	704 15 4
..	30	..	2365	6918	313	95	32	6	2	1 8 7
3610	948	215922	76099	3842781	330174	59396	5159	4938	2108	706 8 11

various classes of Societies for previous Year (1916),

Statistics for tables showing increase of membership, &c.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
3486	853	165476	54882	2883333	309786	51568	1788	3846	1721	699 5 9
..	22	..	1976	5988	246	90	60	10	5	1 12 6
3486	875	165476	56858	2889321	310032	51658	1848	3856	1726	700 18 3

WESTERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties
HEREFORD, MONMOUTH, MONTGOMERY, PEMBROKE, and Part of

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank	Re- serve Fund	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldggs, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Ow ng to the Societ- or Goods
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bream	198	340	198	415	640	100	..	255	120
Cainscross and Ebley	5192	61856	5427	3428	18500	12157	8540	36773	2183
Cinderford	3076	36822	1144	5421	11956	7806	1122	29127	807
Coln Independent	183	1017	..	483	1052	74	..	581	280
Dumbleton	167	950	103	274	716	128	..	166	78
Frampton Cotterell	920	11245	1254	745	5853	4554	..	3740	460
Gloucester	15897	265923	7520	14556	54912	50442	41337	163559	211
Hereford	2053	18777	2026	1321	8048	8222	713	7638	1367
Kemble	526	2517	5	390	867	499	532	1351	192
Llanidloes	449	2863	802	287	1560	1198	343	990	144
Lydney	400	5188	768	519	1739	2114	507	2376	58
Pillowell and Yorkley	462	5764	..	277	2608	812	..	3808	157
South Cerney	141	252	..	183	272	15	..	363	75
Stroud	4193	46074	1314	2853	19121	9761	3874	21353	1943
Tortworth	56	168	4	..	354	..	..	81	..
Upper Lydbrook	110	440	615	29	349	656	..	130	74
District Total for 1917	34023	460196	21780	31081	128547	98448	56068	272291	8149
District Total for previous year (1916)	30734	415524	20651	28476	130594	102116	64732	208185	8772
No. 2—BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Aberdare Workmen's	4016	44729	7452	4265	35036	16095	6905	3116	7370
Abergavenny	340	928	77	165	505	179	..	669	..
Abersychan and Talywain ..	3971	35518	8241	4594	24188	16477	11493	7204	48
Blaenavon	2953	55202	7814	3100	25391	13733	10381	30633	941
Blaina	9174	174547	39152	8937	90903	34642	34116	74001	1662
Brecon	388	1587	..	122	1463	329	..	799	40
Cardiff	4200	10893	11094	590	8119	12243	3517	3888	1798
Chepstow	1011	5740	1556	369	6733	2729	..	723	1040
Cwmbach	8051	124324	123	11962	99430	24654	15179	12363	5281
Cwmbran & Pontynegydd ..	505	5580	1239	124	3575	2639	..	1212	..
Cwmtillery	1680	22428	3825	1906	14253	5161	754	11805	..
Dowlais	2920	23493	2049	3734	14738	7636	947	9685	507
*Duffryn (Mountain Ash) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ebbw Vale	4269	40356	8780	1387	19637	16340	6143	17341	705
*Garndiffaith and Varteg ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merthyr and Troedryhiw ..	1904	17147	2293	1678	14463	8675	707	2151	876
Newport	5704	75191	7597	2871	27846	15927	22641	24134	2033
New Tredegar	3434	31931	6184	2105	25031	9760	3070	4458	5219
Penarth	1426	6557	2907	1346	8067	1521	2157	2527	635
*Penrhiwceiber .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senghenydd & Aber Valley	2255	14735	..	2302	13889	7234	..	565	..

SECTION.

of BRECKNOCK, CARDIGAN, CARMARTHEN, GLAMORGAN, GLOUCESTER, WORCESTER, for 1917, arranged in their respective Counties.

from the Registrar's Return for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.				Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital		Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.		
													£ s d.
1	5	2	292	88	8622	746	12	1 0	..	..	1	0 14 7	
2	55	25	6128	1940	194663	21630	2262	2 0	..	..	71	25 0 4	
3	96	13	5491	1290	151777	13973	1803	1 7 1/2	..	..	78	14 18 9	
4	5	1	216	69	5289	555	49	2 0	..	..	..	....
5	2	..	123	..	5499	301	22	1 6	..	..	..	..
6	26	6	1709	567	40244	2154	418	1 1	..	..	24	3 16 7	
7	434	53	27852	5846	483483	50390	9282	1 11 1/2	..	496	296	71 18 3	
8	46	8	3010	1012	59049	4616	800	1 4 1/2	..	1	18	9 1 8	
9	6	4	430	234	15819	1045	113	1 3 1/2	..	4	1	2 11 0	
10	5	2	265	92	8292	833	129	2 1	..	..	9	2 1 10	
11	6	3	452	190	13160	1181	229	1 5	..	17	..	1 15 0	
12	8	4	669	289	26824	1953	245	1 1 1/2	..	..	7	2 2 9	
13	2	1	90	64	3061	104	10	0 9	..	..	..	0 14 0	
14	100	14	5396	1199	141628	16112	1822	2 0	..	120	16	20 17 0	
15	2	..	54	..	1980	106	8	1 3	..	..	..	..
16	3	1	174	93	5256	205	19	0 10	..	..	..	0 9 0	

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN DISTRICT—Con.									
Trecynon and Cwmdare ..	1041	13409	542	972	6996	2897	1124	5327	1287
Tredegarr	3454	21513	13634	1685	22337	8968	3180	5312	1632
Treharris	1688	16239	3138	1859	9787	7022	2783	4820	678
Ynysybwl	4404	37522	7514	2800	23040	8223	3876	16917	4235
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	68788	779569	135211	58873	495427	223084	128973	239650	35987
Supply Association :— West Breconshire Farmers	374	2577	4144	24	2759	576	..	886	6369
District Total for 1917	69162	782146	139855	58897	498186	223660	128973	240536	42356
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	60968	739455	148858	56229	432897	220010	151336	244808	34442
Supply Association Total for previous year (1916)	305	2240	3372	157	2763	750	..	1323	4329
District Total for previous year (1916)	61273	741695	152230	56386	435660	220760	151336	246131	38771
No. 3—WEST WALES DIST.— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Abercrave	247	1203	798	274	3416	698	..	244	320
Alltwen and Pontardawe ..	1978	13218	5515	1004	8605	4331	162	5291	5884
Ammanford	1520	17257	160	1551	13654	3967	464	2541	711
Blaendulais	221	1093	157	87	2098	294	..	236	769
Briton Ferry	1335	8984	3609	854	9877	3274	2558	3154	1398
Burry Port	581	2777	2014	350	3961	1999	..	1459	239
Catmarthen	535	1463	1028	199	1329	1481	..	407	48
Craigcfeinparc	151	583	569	290	1509	71	..	64	430
Cwmbrwla	625	2730	5310	280	3968	1545	..	3201	1051
Cwmgorse	380	2845	2433	611	4728	960	698	743	333
Cwmlllynfell	245	2202	144	255	2386	782	..	509	643
Gorslas	362	4216	678	603	4935	818	..	1407	48
Llanelli	1540	10326	1453	3231	7104	3560	1132	4920	566
Llangennech	105	550	..	92	402	..	..	63	176
Lower Cwmtwrch	125	1306	588	135	1956	502	..	299	543
Neath Abbey and Skewen ..	565	5026	1730	2187	5885	3113	588	671	1887
Pembroke Dock	1970	7159	606	888	6106	3331	..	1075	101
Pontardulais	1433	14332	2177	2458	14677	4180	2176	1823	790
Pontyberem	459	5217	..	166	4333	1057	..	1298	526
Porthcawl	230	627	..	76	595	91	..	157	20
Resolven	980	15478	1191	1345	6894	4344	1202	6574	1632
Swansea	4722	20194	14753	934	17304	11835	6323	4394	2165
Trimsaran	173	927	377	538	1843	196	..	305	291
Whitland	136	307	..	65	247	..	..	79	23
Retail Socs. Total for 1917	20618	140020	45290	18473	127812	52429	15303	40914	20574
Productive Societies :— Cymmer, Corrwg & Gwynf									
Baking	43	642	307	151	295	996	..	158	..
Swansea Printers	81	865	1323	206	326	1685	..	74	477
Produc. Socs. Total for 1917	84	1507	1630	357	621	2681	..	232	477
District Total for 1917	20702	141527	46920	18830	128433	55110	15303	41146	21051
Retail Societies Total for previous year (1916)	17263	114561	46941	15062	96830	50086	24121	30054	16400
Productive Societies Total for previous year (1916)	90	1265	2004	416	480	2554	..	259	653
District Total for previous year (1916)	17353	115826	48945	15478	97310	52640	24121	30318	17053

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
						Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	£	£					£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
22	23	4	1992	423	51975	7694	437	2 9	..	21	15	5 6 4		
23	52	8	5307	1194	134093	8027	580	1 1 1/2	..	124	42	14 16 3		
24	48	17	3290	1005	85593	9559	497	2 0	..	20	27	7 10 0		
25	88	23	7606	2122	206411	20574	1243	2 0	..	135	62	19 2 9		
			1776	290	138984	30894	3332491	334631	28906	..	965	1442	1368	327 12 11
26	10	..	915	..	24570	169	117	..	..	..	6	1 15 5
	1786	290	139899	30894	3357061	334800	29023	..	965	1442	1374	329 8 4		
	1701	208	112261	26839	2746464	332648	26379	..	1278	1520	950	269 5 0		
	4	..	211	..	17386	..	65	..	..	..	4	1 12 6
	1705	298	112472	26839	2763850	332648	26444	..	1278	1520	954	270 17 6		
1	4	..	494	..	8087	190	46	1 0	..	..	..	9 7 6
2	32	22	2513	626	65493	4321	407	2 0	..	6	17	7 14 2		
3	47	..	4162	..	85271	6719	766	1 6	..	..	39	0 18 9
4	7	1	481	74	9140	104	32	0 6	..	7	9	6 5 0		
5	23	3	2479	482	51768	3545	407	1 3	..	9	9	2 12 3		
6	10	..	734	..	17145	725	139	1 3	..	31	13	1 14 4		
7	7	..	387	..	9877	646	46	1 0	..	16	11	0 15 7		
8	5	..	297	..	6080	282	24	1 0	..	2	..	3 3 11		
9	13	2	918	157	15502	455	128	1 0	..	8	47	1 19 3		
10	8	..	732	..	21811	2595	48	1 9	..	18	7	1 4 0		
11	6	2	582	126	13058	828	96	1 2 1/2	18	5	1 11 3	
12	9	6	696	483	23636	2642	189	2 0	..	10	5	7 7 0		
13	33	3	2390	380	50788	3239	372	1 0	..	88	37	0 10 10		
14	2	..	195	..	6059	518	6	1 6	..	..	..	1 0 1
15	5	..	376	..	8874	367	27	1 0	..	2	..	2 18 4		
16	17	2	1440	148	32939	1890	194	1 2 1/2	..	8	75	8 14 6		
17	34	2	2113	201	42938	2269	358	0 11	..	..	11	7 1 11
18	34	11	2729	744	80050	7746	155	1 7	..	14	20	1 16 3		
19	10	2	799	202	25763	2460	549	1 10	..	..	3	0 18 10
20	5	..	299	..	5607	319	25	1 0	..	1	6	4 7 0		
21	29	4	2397	442	57989	5095	658	1 6	..	50	6	19 9 0		
22	89	20	6704	1937	118361	5415	930	0 8 1/2	186	102	66	0 16 1		
23	4	1	287	96	10714	842	2	1 5	..	8	2	0 14 11		
24	1	..	148	..	3193	171	10	0 6	..	2	..	93 0 9		
			434	81	34352	6098	770083	53383	5614	..	186	382	396	93 0 9
25 26	..	6	..	748	8569	178	32	2 6	2	..	0 10 6	
	..	12	..	879	2471	109	33	0 10 6	
	..	18	..	1627	11040	287	65	2	..	0 10 6	
	434	99	34352	7725	781123	53670	5679	..	186	382	398	93 11 3		
			362	88	23930	5356	579340	50498	4226	..	172	411	320	75 0 8
			..	19	..	1498	6909	238	55	0 10 6
			362	107	23930	6854	586249	50736	4281	..	172	411	320	75 11 2

NAME OF SOCIETY	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 4—MID-GLAMORGAN DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abergwynfi	570	4776	989	788	8399	749	..	603	671
Afan Valley	560	5376	1111	642	7450	340	237	828	80
Barry and District	1804	10575	3329	1341	9545	3914	1614	1501	510
Blacngarw	392	3862	1782	533	4329	2471	83	249	552
Bryn	180	900	441	137	1167	..	..	473	464
Caerau and Maesteg	1206	4308	7654	197	7267	6951	565	1584	1118
† Cwmavon	10	33	..	..	..	..	..	47	..
Cymmer	660	11437	1273	691	8470	3921	46	2374	..
† Ferndale	3113	26806	..	23281	16372	14521	3643	18298	7171
Glyncorwg	568	6238	..	511	4171	1025	..	1469	172
Mid-Rhondda	3600	15841	12325	4395	27931	8079	2743	2123	405
Nantymoel	2299	32720	1489	873	22576	5404	1010	21850	6565
Pantdu	296	3251	278	1035	2853	322	278	2134	221
Penygraig	3761	22703	4113	2290	17094	8047	1745	10323	4795
Pontrhydyfen	278	2802	36	202	2009	542	..	751	648
Pontycymmer	1896	19201	3345	2550	19392	5189	2623	3198	1381
Pontyrhyl	126	1629	..	224	969	236	..	214	470
Taibach and Port Talbot ..	1940	13955	2618	1061	9785	6284	834	6596	277
Ton	4147	49982	10127	1560	25404	18375	2870	21445	145
Treorky	2066	18803	450	6251	24473	5296	..	4711	6025
District Total for 19172	9472	255198	51360	48661	220256	91726	18291	100771	31670
District Total for previous year (1916)	25176	220759	43592	48128	154327	91770	20412	94503	37900

† Not commenced trading. d 1915 figures.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1	8	1	1753	219	41390	3303	137	1 6	..	12	1 14	0
2	12	1	1038	77	35685	3060	253	1 6	..	12	2 7	1
3	47	6	2983	643	61161	3632	461	1 0	..	10	7 14	4
4	10	2	1019	194	24043	2442	154	1 10½	..	3	3 4	2
5	4	1	345	96	11881	747	12	1 6	..	..	0 12	6
6	40	3	2239	356	50522	3035	54	1 2	..	37	5 11	9
7	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	..	..	..	..	..
8	20	..	1829	..	44001	4055	424	2 0	..	53	41	2 10 7
9	101	15	9826	1382	229440	37734	228	3 6	..	60	50	..
10	5	..	879	..	32661	3856	203	2 0	..	..	6	1 10 2
11	99	7	7511	779	184230	16546	276	1 10	..	32	89	16 8 1
12	61	17	5721	1482	171807	20586	992	2 6	..	93	52	10 10 0
13	7	..	613	..	27393	4342	156	3 0	..	..	3	1 11 3
14	96	19	9030	1884	242561	24768	485	2 2	..	40	80	18 5 2
15	6	3	508	145	17179	1414	135	1 6	..	..	..	1 0 4
16	57	6	4341	914	104824	11984	792	2 0	..	1	44	8 17 2
17	2	..	269	..	7108	560	56	1 6	..	..	2	0 12 0
18	38	19	3129	1069	107134	9581	595	1 6	..	52	32	7 5 0
19	100	14	7385	1322	185924	12935	1690	1 2	..	193	29	17 5 2
20	38	11	3904	827	103807	9596	418	1 8	..	..	9	8 11 10
751		125	64382	11389	1682841	175080	7618	..	..	571	506	116 17 7
698		108	52483	10157	1353454	163501	6294	..	..	463	478	94 10 11

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD	16	34023	460196	21780	31081	128547	98448	56968	272291	8149 1
„ 2—BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN	26	69162	782146	139355	58897	498186	223660	128973	240536	42356 2
„ 3—WEST WALES	26	20702	141527	46920	18890	128433	56110	15303	41146	21051 3
„ 4—MID-GLAMORGAN ..	20	29472	255198	51360	48661	220256	91726	18291	100771	31670 4
Totals, 1917	88	153859	1639067	259415	157469	975422	468944	219535	654744	103226
Totals, 1916	89	134536	1493804	265418	148468	817891	467286	260601	579132	102496
Increase .....	..	18823	145263	..	9001	157531	1658	..	75612	730
Decrease	1	..	..	6003	..	..	..	41066	..	..

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c.,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	85	152901	1634983	253611	157088	972042	465687	219535	653626	96380
Productive Societies	2	84	1507	1630	357	621	2681	..	232	477
Supply Association	1	374	2577	4144	24	2759	576	..	886	6369
Total for Section (1917) ..	88	153859	1639067	259415	157469	975422	468944	219535	654744	103226

Summary showing Members, Capital, Trade, &c., of
given for purposes of comparison. See also Introduction to

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Socs. Totals for previous year (1916) ..	86	134141	1490299	260042	147895	814648	463982	260601	577550	97514
Productive Societies Totals for previous year (1916) ..	2	90	1265	2004	416	480	2554	..	259	653
Supply Association Totals for previous year (1916) ..	1	305	2240	3372	157	2763	750	..	1323	4329
Total for Section for previous year (1916)	89	134536	1493804	265418	148468	817891	467286	260601	579132	102496

WESTERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
1	801	137	£ 52351	£ 12973	£ 1164646	£ 124904	£ 17223	£ ..	£ 638	£ 521	£ s. d. 156 0 9
2	1786	290	139899	30894	3357061	334800	29023	965	1442	1374	329 8 4
3	434	99	34352	7725	781123	53670	5679	186	332	398	93 11 3
4	751	125	64382	11389	1682841	175080	7618	..	571	506	116 17 7
	3772	651	290984	62981	6985671	688454	59543	1151	3033	2799	695 17 11
	3553	662	234975	55869	5669318	656662	52624	1450	2906	2299	584 2 10
	219	..	56009	7112	1316353	31792	6919	..	127	500	111 15 1
	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	299	..	..	..

of various classes of Societies for Year 1917.

3762	633	£ 290069	£ 61354	£ 6950061	£ 687996	£ 59361	£ 1151	£ 3033	£ 2791	£ s. d. 693 12 0
..	18	..	1627	11040	287	65	..	..	2	0 10 6
10	..	915	..	24570	169	117	..	..	6	1 15 5
3772	651	290984	62981	6985671	688454	59543	1151	3033	2799	695 17 11

various classes of Societies for previous Year (1916),

Statistics for tables showing increases of membership, &c.

3549	643	£ 234764	£ 54371	£ 5645023	£ 656424	£ 52504	£ 1450	£ 2906	£ 2295	£ s. d. 581 19 10
..	19	..	1498	6909	238	55	..	..	..	0 10 6
4	..	211	..	17386	..	65	..	..	4	1 12 6
3553	662	234975	55869	5669318	656662	52624	1450	2906	2299	584 2 10

A SUMMARY FOR ALL THE SECTIONS.

NAME OF SECTION.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.							
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.			Owing to the Society for Goods.			
								House Property.	All other Investments.					
Ireland (excluding Agricultural, Dairy, Specials, &c.)	49	30705	245984	119911	31159	201016	121225	12393	85810	130860	1			
Midland.. ..	212	513183	6529080	1016047	508822	2537776	2421984	1187105	2722606	274752	2			
Northern	139	436600	6556031	789199	337358	2046330	1715327	1124429	3427777	310389	8			
North-Western	453	1430707	23722608	6029757	5401635	12505320	9004328	4657420	1164895	2615297	4			
Scottish.....	276	571583	8165882	5881315	2114221	5017404	8295955	850827	8509807	116245	5			
Southern	185	544421	5291919	768123	488237	2301857	2161066	499919	2329862	146801	6			
South-Western	76	154818	1327985	201935	178938	654953	673028	132902	361219	26092	7			
Western	88	153359	1639067	259415	157469	975422	468944	219535	634744	103226	8			
Totals for 1917	1478	3385376	53478456	15066692	9217294	26300078	19861857	8734530	23806720	4768672				
Totals for 1916	1481	3568241	51635233	15714045	7870331	23051081	19681452	9418084	30620604	4967345				
Increase .....	..	269135	1849218	..	1346963	3248997	180405	..	..	..	
Decrease	3	..	..	647353	..	..	..	633564	713884	198073	

A SUMMARY FOR ALL THE SECTIONS.—Continued.

No. of Employees on December 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the year.	Net Profit.	PROFIT.				Subscriptions.		
			Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.			Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Educa- tional Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.			
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	881	290	59397	14486	18225'5	76474	11413	2606	2030	460		131 17 1	
2	10878	7238	760704	556827	18574350	1688659	277419	38021	17632	15219		2502 11 2	
3	11487	3198	787007	231489	20126134	2367486	294977	136	6683	11076		2118 11 0	
4	34803	29987	2722898	2421254	109888043	7418562	974577	7175	50755	42509		7500 14 7	
5	21777	16423	1422947	1248002	47729719	4488808	344427	37196	22295	23301		2656 15 9	
6	13831	2869	949780	265476	15944532	1135043	215665	13823	15230	7164		2510 18 9	
7	3810	948	215922	76099	3842781	330174	59396	5159	4938	2108		706 3 11	
8	3772	651	290954	62981	6985671	688454	59543	1151	3083	2799		695 17 11	
101069		61404	7210239	4876614	224913795	18194600	2230816	103267	122596	110639		1823 10 2	
96314		62401	6291201	4546874	197265322	19250021	2096028	102479	124357	116983		17436 6 9	
4785		....	919088	329740	27618473	....	140788	788	....	....		1387 8 5	
....		997	....	....	....	1055421	....	....	1761	6344		....

DETAILED SUMMARY SHOWING SOCIETIES OF VARIOUS TYPES.

	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
								House Property.	All other Investments.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Distributive Societies	1366	3788490	48574049	6362444	3594977	17031182	15321215	8504993	23841587	1507813
Distributive Federations ..	5	60	29224	50	1767	3319	1202	1778	28466	8516
Productive Societies	97	36358	899485	905469	381166	696910	700484	81347	778322	378379
Supply Associations.....	3	6282	358492	79896	128068	333311	201935	24741	126171	45339
Special Societies	4	278	21617	36092	835738	417	24872	65946	816233	21685
English Wholesale Socy.— Distributive.....	1	1192	||2981183	||3956192	3308230	3119705	1686990	4637	1396976	2183376
Productive .....	..	..	..	£4907873	..	3067440	1240360	..	..	..
Scottish Wholesale Socy.— Distributive.....	1	263	||598240	||3664578	961143	1092007	386327	51088	2818212	578693
Productive .....	..	..	..	£1328712	..	893846	298472	..	..	..
Irish Agricultural Whole- sale Society.....	1	453	21216	61971	6205	61941	..	..	5753	89871
Totals for 1917....	1478	3835876	53478456	15066692	9217294	26300078	19861857	8734530	29806720	4708672
† Totals for 1916....	1481	3566241	51635238	15714045	7870331	23051081	19681452	9418094	30520604	4967846

DETAILED SUMMARY SHOWING SOCIETIES OF VARIOUS TYPES.—Continued.

No. of Employees on December 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the year.	Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	PROFIT.		
		Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.					Educa- tional Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	92704	26012	6355509	2110154	149003612	15916591	53647	115572	94842	17795 17 6
2	15	11	1221	960	129130	8692	..	..	1	4 3 0
3	874	9164	90161	676685	5146459	4359740	39854	3519	4661	222 0 3
4	1658	158	148144	21051	1712718	58602	..	..	125	40 19 5
5	488	..	37495	..	480384	29888	250	5	1	25 10 0
6	3695	..	425825	..	57710138	896502	..	..	5719	600 0 0
7	..	19082	..	1558044	*78581555	418653	..	..	..	..
8	1545	..	146154	..	17079842	377808	10016	..	5290	132 0 0
9	..	6977	..	569720	*8294657	123107	..	..	..	..
10	125	..	10780	..	651567	5577	..	500	..	3 0 0
101099	61404	7210239	4876614	224913795	18194600	2236816	103267	122596	110639	18823 10 2
96314	62401	6291201	4546874	197295392	19250021	2096028	102479	124357	116963	17436 6 9

* Also included in distributive sales. † Charged to productive works for capital. The productive profits are the amounts before deducting this interest. ‡ Total profits of societies showing a profit. Some societies showed a loss, the total being £1,497. § These amounts are the amounts of capital employed in production, and are included in the total Share and Loan Capital on the line above. || Total amount of Society's Share and Loan Capital. ¶ For comparison of the various types of society with the figures of 1916 see summary given in the Introduction to these statistics.

RETURNS RELATING TO

a These particulars are taken from our last year's returns. *b* These particulars are taken this office or to

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES.		
(A) Cotton, Linen, Silk, & Wool.	Corsets	Kettering Corset Manufacturing 1 Burnley Self-Help Manufacturing 2 Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing 3 Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers 4 Wigston Hosiers 5 Kettering Clothing 6 Ideal Clothiers (Wellingborough) 7 London Clothiers 8 Eccles Manufacturing 9 ^a Leek Silk Twist Manufacturing 10 Macclesfield Silk 11 Thomson, Wm., and Sons Limited (Huddersfield) 12 Airedale Worsted Manufacturing (Bradford) 13
	Cotton Cloth	
	Fustian	
	Hosiery	
	Ready-made Clothing	
	" "	
	Quilts, Table Covers, &c.	
	Silk Twist	
	" "	
	Worsted and Wool	
	"	
	Total	
(B) Leather Workers.	Boots and Shoes	*Avalon (Rothwell) Boot and Shoe 14 Chesham Boot and Shoe 15 Crompton (Desborough) Boot and Shoe 16 Excelsior (Sileby) Boot and Shoe 17 Finedon Boot and Shoe 18 Glenfield Boot and Shoe 19 Higham Ferrers Boot and Shoe 20 Kettering Boot and Shoe 21 Kettering Union Boot and Shoe 22 Leicester Anchor Boot and Shoe 23 Leicester Equity Boot and Shoe 24 Leicester Self-Help Boot and Shoe 25 Midland (Wellingborough) Boot and Shoe 26 Nantwich Boot and Shoe 27 Northamptonshire Productive (Wollaston) 28 Pioneer Co-operative Boot 29 Ringstead Unity 30 St. Crispin Productive (Raunds) 31 "Sperope" Boot and Shoe (Barwell) 32
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	"	
	Total ?	

* No recent figures available.

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES 1917.

from the Registrar's Returns for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, B'ldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
1	409	14660	..	2882	17804	3500	300	921	2994	217	10762
2	309	8774	21092	885	16778	10894	..	474	7158	103	6063
3	935	38518	400	19358	12614	19920	..	23967	7583	308	26222
4c	301	8263	12253	3907	15659	4238	..	3591	14581	134	5712
5	445	13235	2637	4054	10749	5881	..	4568	5903	72	5225
6	1519	27287	22899	23996	65527	16900	276	2310	45904	936	49078
7	1300	25888	10380	34069	56117	24572	..	5724	14348	831	44611
8	94	1571	180	485	1996	113	..	691	748	16	2055
9	226	14511	7173	3454	12177	11162	..	1225	2882	78	4472
10	119	8809	8571	2489	9782	4074	..	4603	10751	110	8148
11	264	8648	10910	..	9871	4016	..	1982	6221	111	7504
12	422	14870	20021	3972	20671	663	..	5290	15390	106	11884
13	489	7481	2325	3077	10727	302	..	3944	4997	33	2202
	6832	192515	118791	102128	260472	106235	576	59090	139395	3055	189938
14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	108	3105	1543	2737	4800	1459	..	2216	1249	58	6442
16	270	4941	2698	7865	7287	3038	..	1108	5806	88	7013
17	110	3252	4918	3456	11491	1742	..	1018	5356	79	7904
18	30	5206	1373	6201	8176	..	..	2357	6406	90	8782
19	257	3410	4227	1348	4450	1597	..	1168	2647	74	6006
20	219	6660	4066	3496	8720	2407	..	1051	3762	85	7268
21	658	10602	11751	6611	23497	2974	..	7586	..	208	19948
22	307	3309	4504	1629	8031	1060	..	10	2958	59	5145
23	572	7067	7599	4604	17416	5715	..	1851	5994	165	14186
24	998	12581	13913	11023	31927	7123	..	8638	7841	230	20006
25	224	3150	2125	2606	5822	2698	..	637	3890	67	6106
26	319	7852	3131	5633	15848	1315	..	7622	6488	139	12024
27	109	793	575	484	1101	905	..	442	98	29	1279
28	224	3419	5267	4728	9015	1150	..	3586	3566	73	7817
29	66	1599	625	510	1800	716	..	838	..	23	1891
30	26	3612	381	5	10102	487	..	49	4844	103	8385
31	63	6962	8813	5079	14239	1000	..	2969	12022	130	12114
32	272	4286	7629	2993	10027	2693	..	4033	4720	76	7089
	4832	91806	85018	70958	199689	38079	..	47179	77647	1776	159405

RETURNS RELATING TO

a These particulars are taken from our last year's returns. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES			
(A) Cotton, Linen, Silk, & Wool.	Corsets	Kettering Corset Manufacturing	1
	Cotton Cloth	Burnley Self-Help Manufacturing	2
	Fustian	Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing	3
	Hosiery	Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers	4
	"	Wigston Hosiers	5
	Ready-made Clothing	Kettering Clothing	6
	"	Ideal Clothiers (Wellingborough)	7
	"	London Clothiers	8
	Quilts, Table Covers, &c.	Eccles Manufacturing	9
	Silk Twist	aLeek Silk Twist Manufacturing	10
	"	Macclesfield Silk	11
	Worsted and Wool	Thomson, Wm., and Sons Limited (Huddersfield) ..	12
	"	Airedale Worsted Manufacturing (Bradford)	13
		Total	
(B) Leather Workers.	Boots and Shoes	*Avalon (Rothwell) Boot and Shoe	14
	"	Chesham Boot and Shoe	15
	"	Crompton (Desborough) Boot and Shoe	16
	"	Excelsior (Sileby) Boot and Shoe	17
	"	Finedon Boot and Shoe	18
	"	Glenfield Boot and Shoe	19
	"	Higham Ferrers Boot and Shoe	20
	"	Kettering Boot and Shoe	21
	"	Kettering Union Boot and Shoe	22
	"	Leicester Anchor Boot and Shoe	23
	"	Leicester Equity Boot and Shoe	24
	"	Leicester Self-Help Boot and Shoe	25
	"	Midland (Wellingborough) Boot and Shoe	26
	"	Nantwich Boot and Shoe	27
	"	Northamptonshire Productive (Wollaston)	28
	"	Pioneer Co-operative Boot	29
	"	Ringstead Unity	30
	"	St. Crispin Productive (Raunds)	31
	"	"Sperope" Boot and Shoe (Barwell)	32
		Total	

* No recent figures available.

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES, 1917.

from the Registrar's Returns for 1916. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Share Interest	NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.							
				To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
1	55856	3615	604	120	2½	982	2 0	1115	0 6	100	114
2	84449	1399	496	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
3	137876	9090	1738	..	..	1111	1 0	2264	1 0	..	97
4	87042	5029	370	156	2½	385	1 10½	468	0 2½	32	62
5	69737	5172	601	206	10	353	1 4½	697	0 3½	72	29
6	222652	18168	1272	771	2½	4108	1 10	6534	0 10½	250	305
7	209565	11440	1269	644	3½	3856	1 0	6150	0 9	375	243
8	8399	548	74	..	..	66	1 6	270	0 9	..	..
9	29551	1156	771	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
10	49943	4634	441	882	10	700	1 6	..	..	..	49
11	27108	579	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	81611	6606	743	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
13	44619	4693	373	368	5	60	0 6	1055	0 6	..	77
	1102408	465463	8692	3147	..	11611	..	18553	..	829	1096
14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	29257	2681	123	184	7½	350	1 6	314	0 5	24	104
16	50742	835	229	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	..
17	44580	3467	154	164	5	1091	2 10½	762	0 5½	163	..
18	61393	7271	266	758	15	870	2 0	..	..	..	88
19	27415	1329	169	78	2½	225	1 3	360	0 3½	30	16
20	46602	1609	317	..	..	164	..	50	0 6	..	8
21	121624	5938	521	656	5	1486	1 9	2133	0 7½	128	87
22	37108	1960	149	81	3	468	1 9	501	0 10½	45	156
23	52014	3914	337	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	..
24	111953	11158	620	180	..	928	1 6	2310	0 5	78	165
25	38278	1438	122	267	5½	215	0 10½	508	0 8½	20	19
26	87266	7643	359	394	5	1163	2 0	1490	1 0	218	59
27	7158	531	61	..	..	44	1 6	119	1 0	..	5
28	58064	4956	161	161	5	532	1 8	363	0 8½	..	36
29	7692	823	81	80	1½	75	1 0	120	0 4	..	1
30	38740	690	349	107	10	..	..	..	..	..	24
31	89357	16667	340	325	5	4498	..	..	..	..	..
32	49250	4673	561	136	5	645	2 0	920	0 6	30	170
	953498	77083	4909	3521	..	12754	..	9950	..	835	938

e Loss. † Before deducting the loss of £606.

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.			
(c) Metal Workers.	Needles	Alcester Needle Makers.....	33
	Watches	Coventry Watch	34
	Cutlery (1913 figures)	* Sheffield Trade-union Sheep Shear Manufac.....	35
	Locks, &c.	Walsall Locks and Cart Gear	36
	Clog Iron and Sundries	Calderdale Clog Sundries Manufacturing (Walsden)	37
		Total	
(d) Wood Workers.	Cabinet Making, &c.	aBolton Cabinet Makers	88
	"	Bradford ..	39
	"	Newcastle-on-Tyne Household Furnishing	40
	"	Midland Wood Workers	41
	Carriage Builders	Leicester Carriage Builders and Wheelwrights ..	42
		Total	
(e) Building, &c.	Building, &c.	Coventry Builders.....	43
	"	Lincoln Land and Building	44
	"	Oxford Builders.....	45
	"	Wood Workers Limited (Letchworth).....	46
		Total	
(f) Printing and Bookbinding.	Bookbinding	Bookbinders (London)	47
	Printing	Birmingham Printers	48
	"	Blackpool Union Printers	49
	"	Bristol Printers.....	50
	"	Co-operative Newspaper (Manchester).....	51
	"	Co-operative Printing (Manchester)	52
	"	Derby Printers	53
	"	Garden City Press (Letchworth).....	54
	"	Hull Printers	55
	"	King's Cross Publishing (London).....	56
	"	Leicester Printers.....	57
	"	Long Eaton Printers	58
	"	Nottingham Printers	59
	"	Plymouth Printers	60
	"	Portsmouth Printers	61
	"	aSwansea Printers.....	62
		Total	

* No recent figures available.

	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
33	173	1882	1235	..	1478	494	..	465	585	13	714
34	51	1201	190	17	614	400	..	281	77	11	353
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
36	254	8884	3556	7468	11652	5072	324	5747	9586	287	22,677
37	146	1738	350	840	172	1102	..	1940	176	11	852
	624	19655	5331	8325	13916	7068	324	8433	10424	322	24586
38	52	1552	1609	1271	5631	377	..	160	595	45	3577
39	66	3164	3378	307	3600	2100	..	993	289	16	1488
40	121	6363	25710	718	4491	30010	..	79	3530	70	6129
41	48	488	124	20	620	76	..	81	324	6	747
42	96	1947	2782	927	3965	2490	..	29	3729	32	3513
	383	12914	33603	3243	17707	35053	..	1342	8467	169	15454
43	12	134	668	..	82	498	..	28	23	1	65
44	620	5370	47114	3949	392	544	53509	2146	290	4	414
45	48	611	406	126	194	161	424	200	178	7	565
46	7	8430	18129	..	2427	10452	..	6099	8443	2	196
	687	14545	66317	4075	3095	11655	59033	8473	8934	14	1240
47	77	341	..	14	131	55	..	254	108	4	328
48	218	11348	1780	630	2111	7956	..	3856	3464	68	5847
49	140	1139	1008	169	861	895	..	314	815	18	1443
50	68	646	329	162	549	475	..	150	264	9	656
51	357	11731	5341	186	5148	8597	..	3184	5244	55	4638
52	737	23299	..	22973	35105	12848	..	14600	19109	416	34691
53	72	1165	1836	798	403	2767	..	587	366	10	793
54	188	8852	11086	250	3091	12898	..	436	2914	71	5501
55	65	2268	2506	2737	960	6011	..	321	917	26	1794
56	8	150	1000	1500	10	..	..	2063	1082	..	..
57	395	8940	9796	1423	10575	9362	..	3471	7431	104	9657
58	27	526	..	83	343	117	..	294	101	4	486
59	110	751	416	244	251	382	..	723	137	7	699
60	213	1666	1047	86	911	2089	..	60	819	21	1709
61	103	312	867	..	105	784	..	256	122	4	259
62	81	865	1323	206	326	1685	..	74	477	12	879
	2859	73999	38335	31461	60880	66921	..	30643	43970	829	69380

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.			
(c) Metal Workers.	Needles.....	Alcester Needle Makers	33
	Watches	Coventry Watch	34
	Cutlery (1913 figures)	*Sheffield Trade-union Sheep Shear Manufac.	35
	Locks, &c.....	Walsall Locks and Cart Gear	36
	Clog and Iron Sundries	Calderdale Clog Sundries Manufac. (Walsden)....	37
	Total		
(d) Wood Workers.	Cabinet Making, &c.	aBolton Cabinet Makers	38
	"	Bradford "	39
	"	Newcastle-on-Tyne Household Furnishing.	40
	"	Midland Wood Workers.....	41
	Carriage Builders.....	Leicester Carriage Builders and Wheelwrights ..	42
	Total		
(e) Building, &c.	Building, &c.	Coventry Builders.....	43
	"	Lincoln Land and Building	44
	"	Oxford Builders.....	45
	"	Wood Workers Limited (Letchworth).....	46
	Total		
(f) Printing and Bookbinding.	Bookbinding	Bookbinders (London)	47
	Printing	Birmingham Printers	48
	"	Blackpool Union Printers	49
	"	Bristol Printers.....	50
	"	Co-operative Newspaper (Manchester)	51
	"	Co-operative Printing (Manchester)	52
	"	Derby Printers	53
	"	Garden City Press (Letchworth)	54
	"	Hull Printers	55
	"	King's Cross Publishing (London).....	56
	"	Leicester Printers	57
	"	Long Eaton Printers	58
	"	Nottingham Printers	59
	"	Plymouth Printers	60
	"	Portsmouth Printers	61
	"	aSwansea Printers	62
Total			

* No recent figures available.

	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Share Interest	NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.							
				To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
33	5550	519	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34	675	e21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
36	57444	4321	639	80	7	2625	2 6	..	..	127	100
37	5302	208	86	..	..	44	1 0	273	1 0	..	5
	68971	†5048	725	80	..	2669	..	273	..	127	106
38	8232	509	77	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
39	2811	e119	157	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
40	15866	e169	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
41	1934	261	12	20	5	..	..	34	0 6	..	..
42	18781	33	82	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	47624	†808	328	20	..	..	..	34	..	..	1
43	113	e10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
44	*3467	777	475	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	879	11	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
46	2708	643	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	7167	†1431	504	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
47	588	e8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
48	17608	2667	494	746	10	242	2 4½	524	0 10	20	22
49	3518	131	53	..	..	..	..	16	0 4	..	..
50	1676	200	31	8	..	21	..	..	..	3	..
51	29635	e265	488	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
52	163284	17787	1148	861	3¾	1401	1 0	2765	1 9	..	401
53	3152	315	57	9	..	27	0 10	112	0 10	8	9
54	12091	e213	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
55	4353	340	113	89	5	43	0 6	..	..	..	..
56	6706	e86	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
57	39925	4077	437	657	7½	646	1 10	1038	0 7	180	63
58	1089	162	53	16	3	35	2 0	51	1 3	3	4
59	1461	29	37	13	..	5	0 4	9	0 2	..	..
60	5242	113	64	..	..	11	0 3	10	0 0½	3	2
61	1022	196	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
62	2471	109	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	287821	†26126	3008	2399	..	2431	..	4525	..	217	548

* Income. e Loss. † Before deducting loss.

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.			
(c) <i>Corn Milling.</i>	{	Corn Milling	<i>a</i> Derwent Flour Mills
		"	Northallerton Corn Mill
		"	Sherston Milling
		Total	
(h) <i>Baking.</i>	{	Baking	Alfred Joint Stock Bread and Flour
		"	Codnor Park and Selston Baking
		"	Co-operative Bakeries (West Stanley)
		"	Cymmer, Corrwg, and Gwynfi Baking
		" (1913 figures)	Greenwich Bread and Flour
		"	New Swindon Provident
		Total	
(l) <i>Laundries.</i>	{	Laundries	Dewsbury
		"	Hyde
		"	<i>a</i> Keighley
		"	Manchester and District
		"	Newcastle
		"	North-East Lancashire
		"	Rochdale and District
		"	Total
(s) <i>Various.</i>	{	Bass Dressers	London Bass Dressers
		General	Brandisby Agricultural Trading
		Grocery Sundries, &c.	Co-operative Sundries (Droylsden)
		"	Morning Star Sundries (Leicester)
		Mineral Water Manufacturers	Licensed Trade Supply (Coventry)
		"	Total
SCOTLAND.			
(A)	<i>Cotton and Wool.</i> —Woollen & Cotton	Paisley Manufacturing	
(F)	<i>Printing and Bookbinding.</i> —Printing	Edinburgh Printing	
	" " "	Glasgow Civic Press	
	" " "	" Scottish Newspaper	
		Total	
(n)	<i>Baking</i>	Auchterarder Baking	
	"	Bainsford and Grahamston Baking	
	"	Burntisland Bread	
	"	Carronshore Baking	
	"	Chapelhall Federated Baking	
	"	Glasgow United Baking (Glasgow)	
	"	Hamilton Baking	

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES, 1917.

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	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, B'ldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
63	10	18277	26728	..	12536	13276	..	17926	3033	49	4364
64	478	1709	24	..	223	2804	..	17	1859	2	136
65	49	479	452	187	91	538	..	330	616	4	172
	537	20465	27204	187	12850	16618	..	18273	5508	55	4672
66	618	3562	2021	250	771	5414	..	871	782	9	1455
67	2	800	..	100	193	501	..	279	..	5	392
68	h5	1711	4189	500	429	3253	..	3018	382	15	1347
69	h3	642	307	151	295	996	..	158	..	6	748
70	64	712	49	198	86	600	175	154	..	3	116
71	3371	5126	1974	883	687	5057	..	46	4752	12	1299
	4063	12553	8540	2082	2466	15821	175	4526	5916	50	5357
72	10	3448	1950	538	536	3765	..	1706	457	41	2438
73	7	3564	1960	..	903	4561	..	496	41	66	3585
74	17	4012	3014	20	258	6771	..	66	202	40	1911
75	h15	20970	9489	100	..	30097	..	2476	1924	195	14710
76	58	17064	36109	2854	2480	20636	..	32639	1593	210	9067
77	13	4509	2350	200	927	6324	..	432	56	62	3692
78	h20	7000	8252	..	1178	14777	..	43	184	74	5283
	140	60567	63124	3712	6282	86931	..	37858	4457	688	40686
79	65	574	..	2544	512	..	..	3165	1234	17	2150
80	352	5068	821	826	2657	1779	..	1914	3659	20	1714
81	520	25153	6594	5326	23637	11734	..	4817	6819	150	9884
82	258	4044	1291	1130	3053	822	..	882	10945	16	1473
83	144	1587	904	2000	867	2097	..	1925	168	6	599
	1339	36376	9610	11826	30726	16432	..	12703	22825	209	15820
84	6943	69957	82823	11038	42515	36715	6596	77777	16190	375	26810
85	151	10000	6846	3000	1919	14168	..	334	4477	76	6000
86	200	1834	572	2075	841	860	..	1970	1599	21	2033
87	h70	217	156	214	..	..	..	1724	1477	2	304
	421	12051	7574	5289	2760	15023	..	4028	7553	99	8337
88	423	1678	51	180	220	1083	..	1035	82	4	334
89	4534	41081	895	2652	2413	11979	2324	30823	1884	56	6456
90	272	384	173	1000	242	969	500	8	..	3	446
91	330	2443	275	183	282	1100	..	1075	722	5	364
92	7	1030	14577	1051	1845	4018	251	9948	648	19	2385
93	h209	226037	282635	115816	38853	207990	16010	369129	23014	1212	93892
94	7	8203	48307	2982	4020	8869	658	46841	..	50	6051

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.		
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.				
(G) <i>Corn Milling</i>	{	Corn Milling	Derwent Flour Mills	63
		"	Northallerton Corn Mill	66
		"	Sherston Milling	65
		Total		
(H) <i>Baking.</i>	{	Baking	Alfred Joint Stock Bread and Flour	66
		"	Codnor Park and Selston Baking	67
		"	Co-operative Bakeries (West Stanley)	68
		"	<i>d</i> Cymmer, Corrwg, and Gwynfi Baking	69
		"	Greenwich Bread and Flour	70
		"	New Swindon Provident	71
Total				
(I) <i>Laundries.</i>	{	Laundries	Dewsbury	72
		"	Hyde	73
		"	Keighley	74
		"	Manchester and District	75
		"	Newcastle	76
		"	North-East Lancashire	77
		"	Rochdale and District	78
		Total		
(J) <i>Various.</i>	{	Bass Dressers	London Bass Dressers	79
		General	<i>a</i> Brandsby Agricultural Trading	80
		Grocery Sundries, &c.	Co-operative Sundries (Droylsden)	81
		"	Morning Star Sundries (Leicester)	82
		Mineral Water Manufacturers	Licensed Trade Supply (Coventry)	83
		Total		
SCOTLAND.				
(A) <i>Cotton and Wool</i> —Woollen & Cotton		Paisley Manufacturing	84	
(F) <i>Printing and Bookbinding</i> —Printing		Edinburgh Printing	85	
" " "		Glasgow Civic Press	86	
" " "		" Scottish Newspaper	87	
Total				
(H) <i>Baking</i>		Auchterarder Baking	88	
"		Bainsford and Grahamston Baking	89	
"		Burntisland Bread	90	
"		Carronshore Baking	91	
"		Chapelhall Federated Baking	92	
"		Glasgow United Baking (Glasgow)	93	
"		Hamilton Baking	94	

NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.											
	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Share Interest	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
63	229218	3408	914	..	..	..	..	..	0 3	..	7
64	11311	109	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65	6923	121	6	..	..	8	..	62	0 6	..	3
	247452	3638	920	..	..	8	..	62	..	..	10
66	32420	3205	174	..	..	..	..	2311	1 6	..	15
67	4485	168	40	..	..	..	..	64	0 4	..	..
68	13247	1822	86	..	..	..	..	239	1 6	..	1
69	8569	178	32	..	..	..	..	171	2 6	..	2
70	2024	172	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
71	43733	4674	240	..	..	..	..	4448	2 1	..	7
	104478	9719	605	..	..	..	..	7233	..	..	25
72	5026	489	172	..	..	..	..	100	0 5	..	1
73	8580	169	160	..	..	..	..	243	2 0	..	..
74	4727	270	201	..	..	..	..	..	1 0	..	2
75	30277	4582	1049	..	..	..	..	1250	2 3	..	..
76	28493	2727	849	..	..	..	..	1186	1 0	..	7
77	7714	589	225	..	..	..	..	291	..	..	27
78	12112	1203	280	..	..	..	..	702	1 9	..	..
	96934	10029	2936	..	..	..	..	3772	..	..	37
79	9523	1146	..	..	..	670	7 6	..	..	84	12
80	75941	1416	238	..	..	..	..	505	1 0	..	27
81	104148	8737	1235	..	..	585	1 6	2483	0 6	..	64
82	88668	2650	224	..	..	63	..	..	..	25	25
83	4540	554	78	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	4
	282820	14503	1775	..	..	1338	..	2988	..	109	132
84	285054	19954	3336	..	..	1030	0 7	7837	0 7	..	368
85	12400	490	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
86	5194	359	92	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
87	5902	2286	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
	23496	4849	503	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
88	5992	538	78	..	..	..	..	213	1 4½	..	2
89	101124	14228	1527	..	..	..	..	12040	2 9½	65	129
90	3494	159	69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
91	5776	889	81	..	..	..	..	765	2 9	..	1
92	45469	5068	51	..	..	228	..	5998	..	..	66
93	1353450	96242	11188	..	..	7285	1 0	63239	1 0	1325	1152
94	89455	6344	410	..	..	..	..	5043	1 2½	..	64

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.

NAME OF SOCIETY.

SCOTLAND—Continued.

(n) Baking	Kettle Baking.....	95
"	Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	96

Total

(i) Laundry	Scottish Laundry (Barrhead)	97
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ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

(A) Flannel	Littleborough.....	98
(A) Hosiery	Huthwaite	99
(A) Corsets	Desborough	100
(A) Shirt Factories	Broughton and Pelaw	101
(A) Woollens	Batley	102
(A) Weaving Sheds	Bury and Radcliffe	103
(A) Clothing Factories	Leeds, Broughton, and Pelaw	104
(B) Boot and Shoe Works	Leicester, Heckmondwike, and Rushden	105
(C) Iron Works	Keighley	106
(C) Hardware	Dudley	107
(C) Tinplate	Birtley	108
(D) Cabinet Works	Broughton and Pelaw	109
(F) Printing Works	Longsight, Leicester, and Pelaw	110
(G) Flour Mills	Dunston, Silvertown, Trafford Pk., Oldham, Avonmouth, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax and Slaithwaite	111
(J) Biscuits, Sweets, &c.	Crumpsall	112
(J) Preserves, Pickles, &c.	Middleton	113
(J) Soap, &c.	Irlam, Silvertown, and Dunston	114
(J) Tobacco	Manchester	115
(J) Lard	Hartlepool	116
(J) Brushes	Leeds	117
(J) Paints	Rochdale	118
(J) Creameries	Tralee	119
(J) Farms	Roden, Marden, Coldham, Clitheroe and Crewe	120
(J) Margarine	Higher Irlam	121
(J) Colliery	Shilbottle	122

Total

SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

(A) Woollen and Clothing	Shieldhall (Glasgow) and Ettrick Mills, Selkirk ..	123
(B) Leather, Boots and Shoes	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	124
(D) Cabinet, Brush, Saddlery, & Tinware	"	125
(F) Printing and Bookbinding	"	126
(G) Corn Milling, &c.—Chancelot, Junction, and Regent Flour Mills	Edinburgh and Glasgow	127
(J) Various— Preserves, Confections, Chemicals, Pickles, and Coffee	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	128
Tobacco	"	129
Miscellaneous	"	130
Soap	Grangemouth	131

Total

	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, B'ldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
95	490	£ 1455	£ 23	£ 243	£ 341	£ 743	£	£ 1048	£ 66	6	£ 416
96	348	711	..	100	97	262	..	1018	6	4	339
	6620	283022	316996	124207	48313	237013	19743	460925	26422	1359	110676
97	478	5060	12203	2635	1239	10915	..	7072	1271	164	10324
98	58881	..	34702	22952	..	..	..	140	9995
99	91466	..	59601	30121	..	..	..	670	96756
100	56696	..	45812	8496	..	..	..	400	18874
101	128579	..	98725	22469	..	..	..	1174	49146
102	32908	..	20851	5247	..	..	..	251	20105
103	147495	..	107984	59129	..	..	..	724	41509
104	112828	..	64699	28883	..	..	..	1556	113587
105	394849	..	305141	59028	..	..	..	2384	191541
106	15521	..	6092	4955	..	..	..	84	96 7
107	19458	..	8087	9716	..	..	..	100	11144
108	4574	..	1271	1293	..	..	..	28	2921
109	68107	..	49751	11129	..	..	..	819	34107
110	190290	..	101298	26364	..	..	..	1399	16973
111	1992030	..	1189635	467390	..	..	..	1064	154315
112	83703	..	24823	27191	..	..	..	476	36397
113	349989	..	257113	64508	..	..	..	920	8554
114	649128	..	433173	97822	..	..	..	1567	124679
115	160469	..	132284	11250	..	..	..	790	50588
116	38319	..	14508	2610	..	..	..	20	2080
117	29539	..	19508	6352	..	..	..	176	15095
118	15069	..	17149	..	..	..	..	20	2018
119	828	..	31	..	..	..	..	12	1079
120	163594	..	53567	156040	..	..	..	313	15131
121	81765	..	28632	98695	..	..	..	145	4577
122	22793	..	83	18720	..	..	..	324	21139
	4907873	..	3067440	1240360	..	..	..	III. 15056	III. 1159220
123	212014	..	183519	67088	..	..	..	2148	123882
124	101896	..	96304	12813	..	..	..	1116	80397
125	75753	..	42142	29571	..	..	..	896	35556
126	66222	..	30511	34258	..	..	..	372	2-645
127	512905	..	319332	70002	..	..	..	278	45712
128	90988	..	69444	22072	..	..	..	680	42442
129	59580	..	35574	978	..	..	..	222	11337
130	145296	..	65816	44630	..	..	..	371	28232
131	64058	..	51204	17060	..	..	..	153	18393
	II. 1241	II. 100124
	1328712	..	893846	298472	..	..	..	6977	509720

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	
SCOTLAND—Continued.		
(H) Baking	Kettle Baking.....	95
"	Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	96
	Total	
(I) Laundry.....	Scottish Laundry (Barrhead)	97
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.		
(A) Flannel	Littleborough.....	98
(A) Hosiery	Huthwaite	99
(A) Corsets	Desborough	100
(A) Shirt Factories	Broughton and Pelaw	101
(A) Woollens	Batley	102
(A) Weaving Sheds	Bury and Radcliffe	103
(A) Clothing Factories	Leeds, Broughton, and Pelaw	104
(B) Boot and Shoe Works.....	Leicester, Heckmondwike, and Rushden	105
(C) Iron Works.....	Keighley	106
(C) Hardware	Dudley	107
(C) Tinplate	Birtley	108
(D) Cabinet Works	Broughton and Pelaw	109
(F) Printing Works	Longsight, Leicester, and Pelaw	110
(G) Flour Mills	Dunston, Silvertown, Trafford Pk., Oldham, Avonmouth, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax and Slaithwaite	111
(J) Biscuits, Sweets, &c.	Crumpsall	112
(J) Preserves, Pickles, &c.	Middleton	113
(J) Soap, &c.	Irlam, Silvertown, and Dunston	114
(J) Tobacco	Manchester	115
(J) Lard	Hartlepool	116
(J) Brushes	Leeds	117
(J) Paints	Rochdale	118
(J) Creameries	Tralee	119
(J) Farms	Roden, Marden, Coldham, Clitheroe, and Crewe..	120
(J) Margarine	Higher Irlam	121
(J) Colliery	Shilbottle	122
	Total	
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.		
(A) Woollen and Clothing.....	Shieldhall (Glasgow) and Ettrick Mills, Selkirk ..	123
(B) Leather, Boots and Shoes.....	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	124
(D) Cabinet, Brush, Saddlery, & Tinware	"	125
(F) Printing and Bookbinding.....	"	126
(G) Corn Milling, &c.—Chancelot, Junction, and Regent Flour Mills ..	Edinburgh and Glasgow.....	127
(J) Various—		
Preserves, Confections, Chemicals, Pickles, and Coffee	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	128
Tobacco	"	129
Miscellaneous	"	130
Soap	Grangemouth	131
	Total.....	

	Sales during the Year.	Profit during the Year.	Share Interest	NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.							
				To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes	Charitable Purposes
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
95	6991	569	67	..	..	..	..	566	3 0	..	5
96	3496	538	18	..	..	..	..	262	2 8	..	..
	1615197	124575	19489	..	..	7513	..	88126	..	1390	1420
97	23549	519	253	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	8
98	83228	2372	1868	..	..	..	..	..	} 0 3	..	..
99	285549	4465	2948	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
100	71480	3901	1802	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
101	217995	8240	3744	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
102	81829	2869	1181	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
103	288997	3406	4295	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
104	237569	4398	3709	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
105	1021611	23925	11870	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
106	34050	771	516	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
107	40597	2648	637	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
108	7712	e147	154	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
109	99116	1537	2216	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
110	361752	6651	5951	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
111	10357562	105222	58406	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
112	364120	41452	2793	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
113	1142061	105439	10895	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
114	2222740	59 97	20590	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
115	1066487	12541	5707	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
116	309784	21466	1702	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
117	42352	1463	948	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
118	22123	51	445	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
119	30566	e189	7	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
120	68715	12598	4846	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
121	94584	2007	1359	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
122	29026	e930	879	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
	18581555	†418653	148408	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
123	447810	19998	6929	..	..	..	..	..	} 0 5½	..	..
124	423066	8388	3398	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
125	106077	5742	2490	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
126	132818	7364	2176	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
127	3154136	18837	17131	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
128	549236	23827	2990	..	..	..	..	..	}	..	..
129	402347	12710	1970	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
130	828768	19521	4771	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
131	250599	6770	2098	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
	6294857	123107	43893	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

e Loss. † After deducting the loss of £1266.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

		No. of Societies.		LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		No. of Mem- bers.	Share Capital.*	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to Society for Goods.	
			£	£	£	£	£	House Property.	All other Invest- ments.		
England and Wales		83	529395	455873	237997	602083	400813	55008	228620	£ 896943	
Scotland		14	370090	449596	143169	94937	299671	265339	549802	51436	
English Wholesale Society		1	..	4907473	..	3087440	1240360	..	..	..
Scottish Wholesale Society		1	..	1328712	..	898346	298472	..	..	..
Total		99	899485	7142054	381166	4658196	2293316	81347	778922	378879	

NET SURPLUS (after paying share interest stated) : HOW DIVIDED.												
No. of Employees on December 31st.	Salaries and Wages.	Trade during the Year.	Amount of Surplus for 1916.	Share Interest.	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
					†Amount Paid.	£	Amount Paid.	£	Amount Paid.	£	Educa- tional Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
1	7167	£ 520538	£ 3199173	£ 24402	£ 9167	£ 30811	£ 90811	£ 47890	£ 2120	£ 47890	£ 2-35	
2	1937	156147	1947286	17581	..	8543	8543	95963	1899	95963	1826	
3	19082	1558044	18881555	43808	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	6977	509720	6294857	48993	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35223	2744449	80022871	*899277	234244	9167	39354	39354	143553	3519	143553	4661	

* After deducting losses given in detailed t^hbles. † In addition to interest.

* After deducting losses given in detailed tables. † In addition to interest.

DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES

(Exclusive of the Productive Departments of the Wholesale Societies).

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	No. of Societies.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.							
		No. of Mem- bers.	Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.			
								House Property.	All other Invest- ments.				
ENGLAND AND WALES:—													
Cotton, Linen, Silk, and Wool	13	6882	192515	118791	102128	260472	106235	£	576	£	59090	£	139395
Boots and Shoes, and Leather	19	4892	91806	85018	70958	13916	38079	..	..	..	47179	77647	2
Metal, Hardware, &c.	5	624	13655	5381	8325	17707	7088	324	..	..	8433	10424	3
Wood Workers	5	383	12914	33603	3243	17707	35053	..	..	..	1342	8467	4
Building and Quarrying	4	687	14545	66317	4075	3095	11655	53983	53983	8473	8473	8934	5
Printing and Bookbinding	16	2859	73999	38395	31461	60890	66921	..	..	..	30643	43370	6
Corn Milling	3	537	20465	27204	187	12850	16618	..	..	..	18273	5508	7
Baking	6	4063	12553	8540	2082	2466	15821	175	175	4526	4526	5916	8
Laundries	7	140	60567	63124	3712	6282	86931	..	..	..	37858	4457	9
Various	5	1339	36376	9610	11826	30726	16432	..	..	..	12703	22825	10
Total	83	22296	529395	455973	237997	602083	400313	55008	55008	228520	326943	..	
SCOTLAND:—													
Cotton and Wool	1	6943	69957	82823	11038	42515	36715	6596	6596	77777	16190	1	
Printing and Bookbinding	3	421	12051	7574	5289	2760	15028	..	..	4028	7553	2	
Baking	9	6620	283022	346996	124207	45313	237013	19743	19743	460925	26422	3	
Laundry	1	78	5060	12203	2635	1239	10915	..	..	7072	1271	4	
Total	14	14062	370090	449596	143169	94827	296671	26339	26339	549802	51496		

DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES—Continued.

(Exclusive of the Productive Departments of the Wholesale Societies.)

NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.										
No. of Employees on December 31st.	Salaries and Wages.	Sales during the Year.	Amount of Profit for 1916.	Share Interest.	To Capital.		To Labour.	To Purchaser.	Subscriptions.	
					† Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.			Amount Paid.	Educa-tional Purposes.
1	8055	£ 189838	£ 1102408	£ 65463	£ 8692	£ 3147	£ 11611	£ 18553	£ 829	£ 1086
2	1776	159405	953498	77083	4909	3521	12754	9950	885	938
3	922	24586	68971	5048	725	80	2669	273	137	106
4	169	15454	47624	803	328	20	..	34	..	1
5	14	1240	7167	1431	504	..	..	..	..	..
6	829	69380	287821	26126	9008	2899	2491	4525	217	548
7	55	4672	247452	8638	920	..	..	62	..	10
8	50	6357	104478	9719	605	..	..	7233	..	25
9	688	40686	96994	10029	2936	..	..	3772	..	37
10	209	15820	282820	14503	1775	..	1338	2988	109	132
	7167	520538	3199173	213843	24402	9167	30811	47390	3120	2835
	..	..	..	£1497	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	375	26810	285054	19954	3386	..	1030	7837	..	368
2	99	8337	23496	849	508	..	..	..	..	30
3	1359	110676	1615187	124575	13489	..	7513	88126	1390	1420
4	164	10324	23549	519	253	..	..	..	9	8
	1997	156147	1917286	145897	17581	..	8543	95963	1399	1826
				£286						

£ Loss. † In addition to interest.

e Loss.

† In addition to interest.

Detailed List of Subscriptions Received from Societies

FROM 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER, 1917.

IRELAND.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
430	Armagh	2	4	10
770	Ballymena and Harryville ..	4	0	2
16000	Belfast	83	6	8
120	Callan Co-op. Agricultural ..	0	12	6
131	Clonmel	0	5	0
124	Coalisland	0	12	11
141	Drumaness	0	10	0
115	Drumreaney	0	12	0
364	Dundalk	2	7	1
130	Dungannon	0	13	6
750	Dublin Consumers	3	18	1
622	„ Industrial	3	4	9
191	„ University	0	10	0
980	Enniscorthy	6	5	0
634	Enniskillen	3	6	0
120	Feynes	0	12	5
72	Greenore	0	7	6
100	Inchicore	0	12	6
381	Irish Agricul. C. Wholesale..	3	0	0
—	„ Organisation	4	0	0
—	„ Co-operative Agency ..	1	1	0
145	Larne	0	15	1
1650	Lisburn	8	11	10
174	Lucan	1	15	4
98	Middletown	0	10	2
250	Newtownards	1	6	0
165	Ochilmore	0	11	6
426	Portadown	2	4	4
375	Queenstown	1	18	6
66	Rossclare Harbour	0	6	10
321	Sligo	1	0	0
187	Warrenpoint	1	19	0
400	Waterford	0	10	5
80	Whealt	0	8	4
26512		£143	19	3

MIDLAND SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
380	Aberystwyth	1	19	7
4386	Alcester	22	16	7
173	„ Needle Makers	1	10	0
11	Andrews Co-op. Watch Manufacturing, Coventry..	0	5	0
860	Annesley Colliery	4	9	7
490	„ Woodhouse	2	11	0
648	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	3	7	6
797	Atherstone	4	3	0
220	Barrow-on-Soar	1	0	2
1775	Barwell	9	10	1
759	Bidford	3	19	1
42701	Birmingham Industrial ..	219	1	7
190	„ Printers	1	5	0

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
137	Blue Lias	0	12	6
1767	Bolsover	7	16	4
2345	Boston	12	4	0
46	Bourton, Much Wenlock ...	0	4	10
62	Brassington	0	6	6
320	Bridgnorth	1	13	4
146	Broughton Astley	0	15	3
2392	Bulwell	10	19	4
689	Burbage	3	1	3
914	Burton Latimer	4	15	3
10926	Burton-on-Trent	55	17	3
4250	Cannock and District	22	2	8
672	Chirk and District	3	10	0
2784	Cinderbill	13	13	7
5875	Coalville	30	12	0
962	Codnor Park and Ironville ..	4	16	10
2	„ and Selston Baking ..	0	5	0
124	Cogenhoe	0	12	11
—	Co-operative Productive Federation	1	0	0
192	Cosby	1	0	0
146	Coventry Licensed Trade..	1	10	0
22559	„ Perseverance	130	6	8
51	„ Watch Manufact'g ..	0	12	0
140	Croft	0	14	7
273	Crompton Boot Manufact'rs (Desborough)	2	0	0
1156	Daventry	6	0	6
91	Denton	0	9	6
31277	Derby	162	18	0
73	„ Printers	0	15	0
1794	Desborough	9	4	4
6741	Dudley	15	0	0
920	Earls Barton	4	15	10
210	Ellesmere and District ..	1	1	0
1152	Enderby	5	14	5
300	Fenny Compton	1	11	3
815	Finedon	4	4	2
28	„ Boot and Shoe	1	0	0
431	Fleckney	2	4	10
4752	Gainsborough	24	15	0
243	Glenfield	1	5	4
249	„ Progress Boot & Shoe ..	2	1	6
2880	Grantham	15	0	0
9313	Great Grimsby	46	10	1
2002	Great Wigston	10	10	4
145	Groby	0	15	6
178	Hackleton	0	18	8
1900	Halesowen and Hasbury ...	9	18	0
390	Harbury	2	0	7
149	Harlestone	0	15	6
643	Harpole	3	7	0
273	Hathern	1	8	5
479	Higham Ferrers	2	10	0
270	Higham Ferrers Boot & Shoe	1	12	0
193	Highly	1	1	0

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
9415	Hinckley	17	10	8
103	Hollington	0	10	8
4185	Hucknall Torkard	21	16	0
162	Huncote	0	17	0
676	Huntingdon	3	10	2
1224	Ideal Clothiers-Wellington	6	7	6
5331	Ikeston	28	0	0
420	Irchester	4	9	6
1038	Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale	5	8	2
690	Irthlingborough	3	8	2
8640	Kettering	48	15	0
651	" Boot and Shoe	6	0	0
1415	" Clothing	8	10	0
387	" Corset Manufac.	3	0	0
276	" Union Boot & Shoe	2	6	0
250	Keyworth	2	11	0
3433	Kidderminster	17	6	8
135	Kirby Muxloe	0	14	1
2617	Kirkby-in-Ashfield	13	12	8
314	" Manuftrs.	1	13	0
6302	Langley Mill and Aldercar	32	5	6
685	Langwith	8	9	3
456	Lea and Holloway	2	7	1
27316	Leicester	139	5	0
558	" Anchor Boot & Shoe	4	10	0
100	" Tenants	0	12	6
988	" Boot and Shoe	8	0	0
84	" Carriage Builders	0	12	0
—	" Co-op. Sm'll H'lders	0	10	6
225	" Morning Star Sun-dries	0	13	3
390	" Printing	2	8	0
171	" Self-Help Bt. & Shoe	1	10	0
16928	Lincoln Equitable	87	19	7
621	" Land and Building	3	4	10
3000	Lockhurst Lane	15	12	6
1037	Long Buckby	5	8	0
10843	Long Eaton	57	14	7
27	" Printing	0	5	0
518	Loughborough	2	14	0
407	Lowdham	2	2	5
12130	Mansfield and Sutton	59	16	2
3100	Market Harborough	17	15	0
177	Markfield	0	10	0
242	Mayfield	1	5	2
2000	Melton Mowbray	14	6	5
236	Midland Boot Manufacturers	1	5	0
47	" Wood Workers	0	5	0
372	Milford	1	18	9
352	Moulton	1	16	8
457	Mount Sorrel	2	7	0
—	National Managers' Assoc.	1	0	0
2808	Netherfield	15	18	11
2291	Newark	11	2	0
1246	Newtown, Mont.	6	9	8
199	Northamptonshire Productive	1	10	0
8194	Northampton	42	13	6
15	" I.L.P. Boot	0	5	0
16374	Nottingham	87	18	8
110	" Printers	0	15	0
7721	Nuneaton	40	4	3
340	Oadby	1	15	5
2663	Oakengates	13	17	4
1179	Oswestry	6	2	8
18149	Peterborough	94	10	6
982	Pinxton	5	2	3
73	Pioneer Boot Wks., North'nts	0	12	6
67	Pitsford	0	7	0
60	Planet Mutual Insurance	0	10	0
1601	Pleasley and Pleasley Hill	8	6	9
892	Prees	1	15	0
304	Radcliffe-on-Trent	1	5	4

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
236	Ratby	1	4	7
1367	Raunds Distributive	7	2	4
1689	Retford	8	8	0
190	Ringstead Distributive	0	19	9
26	" Unity	0	10	0
12182	Ripley	63	9	0
1034	Rothwell	5	7	9
222	" "Avalon" Boot and Shoe	1	10	0
616	Ruddington	3	4	2
7511	Rugby	39	0	0
1674	Rugeley	8	14	4
2461	Rushden	12	16	4
60	St. Crispin (Raunds)	2	2	0
792	St. Ives (Hunts.)	4	2	6
170	St. Martin's	0	17	9
100	Saxby	0	12	5
732	Selston	8	16	2
1242	Shepshed	6	10	0
4130	Shrewsbury	21	10	0
110	Sibley Boot and Shoe ("Excelsior")	0	12	0
259	Skegness	1	7	0
8712	Soho	39	1	3
508	Southwell	2	12	11
1252	Spalding	6	6	9
234	Sperope Boot and Shoe (Barwell)	1	11	6
8009	Stafford	15	13	4
1606	Stanton Hill	8	7	4
2578	Stapleford and Sandiacre	13	8	6
302	Stoney Stanton, New	1	11	5
5482	Tamworth	28	0	0
10912	Ten Acres and Stinchley	56	16	8
507	Thrapston	2	12	11
38	Tibberton	0	4	0
1416	Tibshelf	7	7	6
1051	Tipton	10	13	8
13461	Walsall	77	5	0
220	" Locks & Cart Gear	1	10	0
274	Warsop Vale	1	8	7
440	Warwick	2	5	10
1440	Wednesbury and Dist. New	6	6	0
3356	Wellingborough Midland	17	9	8
347	Welshpool	1	16	2
158	West Haddon	0	17	6
800	Whitchurch (Salop)	4	3	4
410	Wigston Hosiers	1	15	0
596	Wirksworth	4	10	4
530	Wisbech Phoenix	2	17	4
707	Wollaston	3	13	6
6251	Wolverhampton	32	11	2
124	Worcester New	83	1	8
244	Yardley Hastings	1	5	5

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NORTHERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
606	Allendale	3	3	1
251	Alston	1	4	5
1958	Amble	10	4	0
8809	Annfield Plain	44	15	0
5668	Ashington Industrial	29	10	5
997	" Equitable	5	0	1
2268	Aspatria	11	15	0
910	Backworth	4	14	8
1077	Barnard Castle	5	12	9
245	Bearpark Colliery	1	5	6

Northern Section—continued.

No. of Members	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.	
622	Bebside	3	4	9	
2365	Bedlington	12	6	4	
5052	Birtley and District	26	6	3	
19441	Bishop Auckland	101	5	1	
12755	Blaydon-on-Tyne	68	8	8	
2284	Blyth Central	11	17	11	
4039	Boldon Industrial	21	0	2	
1576	Brandon and Byshottles	8	4	2	
306	Brandsby Agricult'! Trading	1	11	11	
1145	Broomhill	5	4	2	
182	Broughton Moor.....	0	5	0	
611	Cambois	3	3	8	
10203	Carlisle	55	17	5	
355	Castle Howard	1	17	0	
5631	Chester-le-Street	29	1	2	
496	Choppington.....	2	11	8	
6859	Cleator Moor	35	14	4	
395	Clive Industrial, Blyth	1	19	10	
278	Coanwood	1	9	0	
8149	Consett	16	1	4	
5	Co-op. Bakeries Ltd., West Stanley	1	1	0	
57	„ Laundries Associat'n	0	15	0	
2288	Cornforth and Coxhoe	11	18	4	
700	Coxlodge and Fawdon	3	13	6	
609	Craghead and Holmside	3	2	7	
4800	Cramlington.....	25	2	10	
5680	Crook	29	17	11	
447	Dalston	2	6	6	
13876	Darlington	72	5	5	
10	Derwent Flour Mill	2	2	0	
2214	Durham	11	10	7	
808	Easington Lane	4	4	3	
4118	East Cleveland	21	9	0	
1684	Egremont	8	15	4	
771	Esh	4	0	3	
1696	Felling Industrial	8	16	4	
973	„ Shore	4	19	7	
110	Felton	0	13	9	
433	Fourstones and Newburgh	2	5	1	
231	Framwellgate Moor	1	4	1	
14854	Gateshead	77	7	4	
—	Giltsland Convalescent Home	0	15	0	
608	Greenhead	1	12	1	
378	Grosmont	1	19	5	
767	Guide Post	3	19	11	
1711	Guisborough	8	17	1	
1124	Haltwhistle	5	17	1	
11463	Hartlepoons	59	10	0	
3365	Haswell	19	0	11	
367	Haydon Bridge.....	1	18	3	
393	Hebburn Colliery	2	0	11	
708	Hedgeley	3	13	9	
2278	Hetton Downs	11	11	6	
90	Houghton	0	9	6	
462	Howick	2	8	2	
6193	Jarrow and Hebburn	42	13	5	
748	Keswick	3	17	6	
446	Kirkby Stephen	2	6	6	
508	Lazonby and District	2	12	11	
2613	Leadgate	13	7	0	
532	Longtown	2	15	5	
396	Low Moorsley	2	1	3	
911	Malton and Norton	4	14	11	
350	Marsden	1	16	5	
370	Marske-by-the-Sea	2	0	0	
5026	Maryport	25	12	7	
23985	Middlesbrough	1	4	18	4
1926	Middleton-in-Teesdale	6	18	2	
2164	Murton Colliery	11	4	10	
443	Naworth Collieries	2	3	6	
114	Nenthead	0	12	0	

Northern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
2060	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	10	14	7
2500	Newbottle	13	0	0
1180	New Brancepeth	5	17	9
86020	Newcastle-on-Tyne	157	12	0
121	„ H'sehold Furnish'g	1	0	0
813	„ St. Anthony's	4	4	7
1005	New Delaval	5	5	0
950	Northalerton	4	18	11
—	NorthernSectionEducational Committees' Association	0	10	0
4957	North Shields	25	16	4
130	Otterburn	0	13	7
750	Pegswood	3	18	1
663	Pelton Fell	3	8	6
1676	Penrith	8	14	7
610	Pickering and District	3	3	6
1585	Pittington	8	5	1
418	Radcliffe	2	3	3
12352	Ryhope and Silksworth	62	8	9
3323	Seaham Harbour	17	6	2
280	Sea Houses & N. Sunderland	1	9	2
2098	Seaton Delaval	10	18	6
321	Seghill	1	16	0
4200	Sherburn Hill	21	17	6
1080	Shire Moor	5	12	6
1874	Skelton	10	0	0
277	South Hetton Amicable	1	8	10
5640	South Shields	29	6	4
1772	Stanhope and Weardale	9	4	7
1414	Station Town	7	7	4
18191	Stockton-on-Tees	94	18	0
19588	Sunderland	102	0	6
1084	Swalwell	5	7	9
620	Tantobie	3	4	7
239	Tebay	1	5	0
455	Thirsk	2	8	9
2188	Throckley and District	11	5	1
160	Togston Terrace & Broomhill	0	16	2
1485	Tow Law	7	14	8
2131	Tudhoe Colliery	11	2	0
2859	Tweedside	14	17	10
1967	Tyne Dock	10	5	0
2223	Walker-on-Tyne	11	11	7
6856	Wallsend	35	14	2
2159	West Cornforth	11	3	10
1576	West Pelton	8	3	10
4213	West Stanley	21	18	10
4882	West Wylam and Prudhoe	24	17	0
1313	Whitby	6	15	4
143	Whitfield	0	13	3
404	Wigton	4	4	2
2183	Willington	11	7	0
2056	„ Quay and Howdon	10	14	2
1627	Windy Nook	8	9	6
3147	Workington Beehive	14	13	0
2636	„ Industrial	13	14	7
405040		£2111	0	9

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

No of Members	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
10880	Accrington and Church	54	6	1
702	„ Provident	3	13	1
314	Addingham	1	12	8
851	Adlington	4	8	8
399	Ainsworth Industrial	2	1	7
311	„ New Road	1	12	5
367	Airedale Worsted Manufac.	4	10	0
472	Allerton	2	9	2

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
850	Altofts	1	16	6
388	Ambleside	0	10	6
5801	Ashton-under-Lyne	30	4	2
3584	Bacup	18	13	4
726	Bagslale	3	15	8
852	Bakewell	1	16	8
823	Bamber Bridge	4	5	9
384	Bangor	2	0	0
143	Barkisland	0	14	7
1778	Barnoldswick	9	5	0
47132	Barnsley	245	9	7
662	Barrowford Industrial	3	9	0
14856	Barrow-in-Furness	78	0	0
6760	Batley	34	8	0
350	Battleyford Self-Help	1	16	5
200	Beeston	1	0	10
239	Bentham	1	9	10
848	Beverley	4	8	4
718	Billington and Whalley	3	15	0
3516	Bingley	18	5	9
17500	Birkenhead	87	18	0
3585	Birkenshaw	18	4	6
2260	Birstall	11	15	5
4334	Blackburn Industrial	22	14	2
4159	„ Daisyfield	21	13	4
4819	„ Grimshaw Park	25	2	0
6993	Blackley	36	8	5
11426	Blackpool	59	10	2
139	„ Printers	1	5	0
40403	Bolton	210	8	8
52	„ Cabinet Makers	0	10	0
74	Bradford	0	10	0
23382	„ (City of)	123	5	6
1464	Brierfield	7	12	6
9092	Brighouse	46	8	6
35405	Brightside and Carbrook	184	8	0
411	Brookholes	2	6	4
213	Brooksbottoms	1	2	1
549	Brymbo	2	17	4
761	Bryn Gates	4	17	6
727	Buckley	3	15	9
18434	Burnley	96	0	2
813	„ Self-Help	2	10	0
15256	Burslem	79	9	0
14100	Bury	73	4	9
340	Buttershaw	1	15	5
2831	Butt Lane	12	2	10
187	Calderdale Clog Sundries	1	0	0
157	Carleton	0	16	4
233	Carnarvon	1	5	0
1993	Carnforth	10	15	0
5790	Castleford Industrial	29	8	6
943	Cawl Terrace	4	18	4
1853	Cefn and District	9	12	0
500	Central Working Men's (Golcar)	2	12	1
5551	Chester	28	18	4
5100	Chesterfield	26	1	0
3649	Chorley	19	0	1
672	Churwell	3	10	0
744	Clayton	4	0	3
2554	Clayton-le-Moors	13	6	0
5560	Cleckheaton	28	12	11
638	Clifton	3	11	0
1753	Clitheroe	9	0	0
974	Close Hill	5	0	0
1877	Clown	7	8	6
6341	Colne and District	33	0	5
7	„ Valley Co-op. Baking	0	5	0
1186	Colwyn Bay	5	0	2
3518	Compstall	18	6	5
4140	Congleton	21	5	5

North-Western Section—continued.

No of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
466	Cononley	2	8	7
702	Co-op. Printing Society, Manchester	12	10	0
358	Co-op. Secretaries' Assoc.	1	16	3
507	„ Sundries Manufctg.	5	0	0
286	Cowling	1	9	10
228	Cowms, Lepton	1	8	9
224	Cragg Vale	1	3	4
800	Crawshawbooth	4	8	4
12502	Crewe Friendly	65	1	10
479	Crigglestone	2	10	5
3464	Crompton Provident	18	0	10
1193	Crosland Moor	6	1	5
513	Crosshills	2	13	6
3025	Dalton-in-Furness	21	0	8
9000	Darwen Industrial	46	17	6
134	Deiniolen	0	10	5
750	Delph	3	18	0
83	„ Woollen Manufac.	0	10	0
816	Denaby Main	4	5	0
622	Denholme	3	4	10
1673	Denton and Haughton	8	14	4
14906	Dewsbury Pioneers	76	12	0
10	„ Co-op. Laundry Association	0	5	0
323	Diggle	1	13	8
353	Disley	1	15	9
198	Dobercross	0	19	1
200	Dogley Bar	1	0	10
16517	Doncaster	86	0	6
398	Dove Holes	2	1	6
383	Driffield	1	19	11
1201	Drighlington	6	4	0
7406	Droylsden	38	11	4
823	Eagley	4	5	9
1061	Earby	5	10	6
3461	Earlestown	18	0	6
228	Eccles Manufacturing	3	10	0
19180	„ Provident	99	17	1
669	Eccleshill	3	9	7
591	Eckington	3	1	7
315	Edenfield	1	12	4
600	Edgworth	3	2	6
325	Egerton	1	13	10
115	Elft Workmen's	0	12	0
1722	Ellesmere Port	8	19	6
459	Emley	2	7	10
840	Employes' Prov. (Port S'light)	4	7	6
165	Escrick and District	0	17	2
171	Ewloe Place	0	14	2
11836	Fallsworth	61	19	1
8883	Farnworth and Kearsley	46	5	4
150	Fyynnong Groyw	0	15	7
176	Firgrove	0	18	4
3220	Fleetwood	16	15	4
920	Flint and Oakenholt	4	15	10
822	Fylde—Kirkham	4	5	7
302	Gargrave	1	11	6
1560	Garston and District	7	17	6
389	Glossop Dale	17	8	0
1057	Golcar	5	10	1
1110	Gomersal	5	13	7
3500	Goole	18	4	8
169	Grange Moor Friendly	0	17	4
359	Grasscroft	1	17	0
3569	Great Harwood	18	11	9
7072	Great Horton	36	16	8
191	Great Rocks	1	11	7
825	Greenfield	4	6	0
646	Greengates & Apperley Bdg.	3	6	11
122	Gresgion's Lane	0	12	5
1320	Guiseley	6	18	3

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1719	Hadfield	8	19	1
500	" Hollingworth Coal..	3	3	0
12697	Halifax Industrial	66	2	7
2176	Handsworth Woodhouse...	11	6	8
6000	Harrogate	31	5	0
1010	Hasland	5	5	2
3421	Haslingden Industrial	16	13	6
542	Haughton Green	2	16	6
478	Hawarden	2	9	9
308	Hawkshead	1	11	0
1086	Haworth	5	13	10
560	Hayfield	2	18	6
1308	Hazel Grove	6	16	3
286	Heapey Busy Bee	1	9	8
475	Healey	2	9	8
495	Heath and Williamthorpe ..	1	17	2
903	Hebden Bridge Fustian Mfg.	10	0	0
2974	" Industrial	15	9	9
9020	Heckmondwike	47	0	0
—	" Co-op. Dyeing & Cleaning	0	5	0
428	Helmshore	2	13	6
438	Heptonstall	2	5	8
666	Hepworth	3	9	7
5066	Heywood	29	3	11
150	Higham	0	15	7
1412	Higher Hurst	7	7	1
200	Higher Walton	1	0	10
3051	Hillhouse Perseverance	15	17	10
757	Hill Top (Paddock)	3	16	11
1164	Hinchliffe Mill	6	0	5
2969	Hindley	15	9	3
966	Hindsford	5	0	7
266	Hoddlesden	1	7	8
—	Holiday Fellowship	0	10	0
751	Hollingworth	4	1	3
328	Holmfild	1	14	0
4	Holmfirth Boot and Shoe ..	0	10	0
1110	Holyhead	5	14	7
1266	Honley	9	17	1
2080	Horbury	10	12	6
3719	Horwich	19	7	5
18942	Huddersfield	98	13	0
26232	Hull	196	12	5
65	" Printers	0	10	6
224	Hulton and Chequerbent...	1	3	4
983	Hurst Brook	5	2	5
3454	Hyde Equitable	18	0	0
7	" Co-op. Laundries Asso.	0	5	0
200	Ilkington	1	10	10
572	Ingleton	2	19	7
269	Junction (Delph)	1	8	0
295	Junction House, Slaithwaite.	1	10	2
11350	Keighley	58	19	4
17	" Laundries	0	7	6
2755	Kendal	14	7	0
879	Killamarsh	4	10	2
1224	Kilnhurst	6	7	6
1190	Kippax	6	4	0
316	Kirkburton	1	12	11
504	Kirkby-in-Furness	2	12	6
810	Kirkheaton	1	12	4
13157	Lancaster and District	68	10	8
86	Lane Bottom	0	8	4
460	Lane Dyehouse	2	10	0
325	Langdale	1	14	4
64847	Leeds Industrial	337	14	10
4174	Leek and Moorlands	21	14	9
119	" Silk Twist	2	0	0
555	Lees and Cross Roads	2	17	11
124	Leeswood	0	12	1
12639	Leigh Friendly	65	16	6

North-Western Section—continued.

No of Members.	SOCIETIES	£	s.	d.
173	Lepton Field	1	2	6
214	Leven Valley	1	2	4
1975	Leyland and Farington	9	0	0
959	Linthwaite	5	0	5
2664	Littleborough	13	17	3
1071	Little Hulton	5	16	1
738	Little Lever	3	17	1
43816	Liverpool (City of)	228	4	2
1053	Liversedge	6	7	6
485	Livesey	2	10	6
240	Llanberis	1	5	0
427	Llandudno Junction	2	4	0
223	Llanfairfechan	1	0	0
140	Llanrug	0	14	7
1384	Longridge	7	3	2
807	Longwood	4	2	11
372	Love Clough	1	19	2
270	Lower Darwen—Fore Street	1	8	2
249	Lower Holker	1	6	0
324	Low Moor—Nelson Street ..	1	12	7
419	Luddenden and District	2	8	4
74	Luddendenfoot	3	15	5
134	Lumb	0	13	9
7460	Macclesfield	39	7	9
266	" Silk Manufac.	2	0	0
331	Maelor Agricultural	1	14	6
488	Manchester and District Farmers	2	10	10
15	Manchester and District Co-op. Laundries	1	0	0
21143	Manchester and Salford	110	2	0
—	" Tenants	3	0	0
720	Market Weighton	3	15	0
1038	Marsden Equitable	5	8	2
12548	Masbro' Equit. Pioneers...	63	9	0
1013	Matlock Bank	6	0	0
1207	Meltham Industrial	6	5	8
205	" Mills Provident	1	1	4
810	Middlestown	4	3	4
4100	Middleton and Tonge	21	7	2
462	Midgley	2	17	9
312	Millgate	1	12	6
2106	Millom	10	19	4
292	Milnrow	1	10	0
883	" Conservative	4	6	9
1890	Milnsbridge	9	16	10
1890	Mirfield Industrial	10	5	6
921	" Perseverance	4	16	0
200	Mold Junction	1	1	0
7910	Morley	41	4	0
8144	Mossley	16	7	6
746	Mytholmroyd	3	17	8
112	Nantwich Boot and Shoe...	1	1	0
—	National Labour Press	1	10	0
9065	Nelson	51	8	2
296	Netherthong	1	10	10
444	New Hey	2	6	3
2878	New Mills	14	15	10
680	New Moston	3	10	10
320	New York (Penmaenmawr) ..	1	13	4
13	North-East Lancashire Co-op. Laundries	0	5	0
—	North-Western Convalescent Homes	1	10	0
—	North-Western Educational Committees' Association	1	1	0
14482	Oldham Equitable	75	8	6
21687	" Industrial	112	19	1
3451	Ossett	18	8	10
1816	Oswaldtwistle	9	9	2
546	Oughtibridge	2	16	10
207	Oxenhope	1	1	0

North-Western Section—continued.

No of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
280	Oxerofft	1	9	6
2800	Padiham	14	11	8
117	Pant-y-fownog	0	12	0
1082	Parkgate and Berry Brow ..	5	5	3
1550	Park Lane	8	1	6
89	Peak Forest	0	8	8
151	Pecket Well	0	16	8
31333	Pendleton	161	13	10
153	Penyffordd	0	16	0
850	Pilsley	4	8	6
750	Platt Bridge	3	18	1
580	Pocklington	3	0	3
9292	Pontefract	46	7	8
570	Poynton and Worth	2	19	4
27817	Preston	142	5	6
5256	Prestwich	27	7	6
2297	Queensbury	11	19	3
2050	Queensferry and District ..	10	12	2
5263	Radcliffe and Pilkington ..	27	8	3
3000	Ramsbottom Industrial	23	9	11
576	Ravensthorpe	2	18	4
1555	Rawdon	8	2	0
1175	Rawtenstall Conservative ..	6	1	6
1250	Rhodes	6	10	3
290	Rhyl and District	1	10	0
196	Ribchester	1	0	9
896	Ripon and District	4	8	6
661	Ripponden	3	8	10
1540	Rishton	8	0	5
22001	Rochdale Equitable Pioneers	114	10	10
218	Roe Green, Worsley	1	2	8
2-94	Royston	12	9	4
9752	Runcorn and Widnes	50	15	10
16385	St. Helens	85	6	9
391	Sabden	1	14	6
2366	Sandbach	12	6	8
282	Scapegoat Hill	1	9	4
2047	Scarborough	10	13	4
8	Scar Wood Coal	0	5	0
1278	Scissett	6	10	11
4512	Scunthorpe	23	10	0
148	Sedbergh	0	15	5
880	Selby and District	4	9	10
355	Shawforth	1	17	0
416	Sheepridge	2	3	4
27579	Sheffield and Ecclesall	143	12	0
402	Shelley	2	1	10
501	Shepley	2	12	1
361	Siddall	1	18	4
1191	Silsden	6	4	0
6040	Silverdale	31	9	2
—	Skelldale Dairy	0	5	0
568	Skelmanthorpe	2	19	2
1440	Skelmersdale	7	10	0
2250	Skipton	11	11	11
3000	Slaithwaite	15	12	6
249	Smithy Bridge	1	6	0
575	South Crosland & Netherton	3	0	0
2098	Southport	10	19	1
4525	Sowerby Bridge Industrial ..	23	11	4
539	Stacksteads	2	14	9
940	Stainland & Holywell Green	4	17	11
4643	Stalybridge	23	10	0
111	Stanbury	0	11	3
1509	Staveley Town	7	17	2
482	Steeton	2	10	3
12333	Stockport	64	9	11
453	— Great Moor	2	8	8
2855	Stocksbridge	14	13	6
271	Styal	1	8	3
203	Summerseat & Brooksbot'ms	1	2	0
550	Sutton Mill	2	17	10

North-Western Section—continued.

No of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
2604	Swarthmoor and Ulverston ..	13	10	0
759	Swinton—Chorley Road	3	19	0
930	— Moorside	4	16	11
97	Sychton	0	6	0
850	Tadcaster	5	10	4
422	Thomson, Wm., and Sons	3	5	0
742	Thornton	3	17	3
804	Todmorden—Bridge End	4	6	1
4789	— Industrial	24	13	8
79	Tong Park, Baildon	0	7	6
487	Tottington Equitable	2	12	0
889	Trawden	2	0	5
382	Tunstead	1	10	2
84	Turn	0	8	9
2188	Tyldesley	11	7	11
151	Upper Hopton	0	15	0
1318	Uppermill	6	17	4
462	Uppertown	2	8	1
172	Wainstalls	0	17	11
2515	Wakefield, Borough of	12	12	1
7361	— Industrial	38	6	9
3068	Walkden	15	10	0
424	Walmer Bridge	3	5	0
780	Walsden	3	16	0
213	Wardle	1	2	6
16432	Warrington	85	11	8
200	Water	1	1	4
664	Waterfoot	3	8	5
919	Waterloo	4	14	9
1180	Westhoughton Friendly	6	0	0
1615	— United	8	8	2
44	West Yorks. Coal Federation	0	5	0
664	Wetherby	3	6	11
2435	Whaley Bridge	12	13	8
147	Wheatley Lane	0	15	5
125	Wheelton	0	13	0
856	Whiston	4	8	6
1089	Whitefield and Unsworth	5	12	4
428	Whitewell Bottom	2	4	7
72	Whitehough	0	7	6
290	Whittle-le-Woods	1	10	2
976	Whitworth	5	1	8
510	Wibsey Slack Side	2	13	2
7779	Wigan	40	10	4
464	Wildsen	2	8	4
8915	Windhill	46	8	8
806	Winewall	1	11	8
4305	Winnington and Northwich ..	22	4	2
3611	Winsford	18	16	2
505	Withnell	2	12	6
782	Woodley	7	18	9
640	Woodlale	3	7	8
784	Woolfold	4	1	8
4501	Worsop	23	8	10
2250	Wrexham	11	14	4
12200	York Equitable	63	10	10
530	Youlgreave	2	15	2
—	Co-op. Wholesale Society	600	0	0
—	— Insurance	25	0	0
—	— Newspaper	15	0	0

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SCOTTISH SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
525	Abbey Green (Lesmahagow) ..	2	15	0
17894	Aberdeen Northern	93	4	0
201	Abernethy	1	1	0
5418	Alloa	28	4	4

Scottish Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1204	Alva Bazaar	6	5	5
689	Anniesland	3	10	10
1757	Arbroath Equitable	9	8	0
2004	Arbroath—High Street	10	8	9
1754	Ardressan	9	2	8
1474	Armadales	7	13	6
600	Auchenheath	3	2	6
1062	Auchinleck	5	9	1
543	Auchtermuchty	2	17	0
2842	Avonbank	14	16	0
4254	Bainsford and Gramamston			
	Baking	10	0	0
150	Balforn	0	15	7
1850	Bannockburn	9	12	8
50	Banton	0	5	3
3965	Barrhead	17	10	6
3588	Bathgate	18	13	8
808	Beith	4	3	8
2575	Bellshill and Mossend	13	8	3
2150	Blantyre	11	5	0
1752	Bo'ness	9	2	6
1212	Bonnybridge	6	5	0
3562	Brechin United	18	6	2
340	Bridge of Weir	1	15	6
2170	Broxburn	11	6	0
2311	Buckhaven	12	0	9
2058	Burnbank	10	14	4
685	Burntisland	3	11	6
333	Busby	1	14	8
495	Cadder	2	11	6
389	Calderbank	1	19	11
2220	Cambuslang	11	11	4
1670	Camelon	8	14	0
596	Campbeltown	2	15	10
1205	Carluke	6	5	0
880	Carrick	4	11	8
659	Carron	3	8	8
140	Carronhall and Kinnaird	0	5	0
383	Carstairs Junction	1	19	3
980	Cathcart	4	16	10
770	Catrine	4	0	3
847	Chapelhall	4	2	1
358	Clackmannan	1	17	4
698	Cleland	3	18	0
8523	Clydebank	44	7	10
300	Condorrat	1	11	3
1253	Coalburn and District	4	3	4
252	Coalsnaughton	1	6	6
307	Coaltown of Wemyss	1	12	0
8797	Coatbridge	45	16	4
—	Co-op. Convalescent Homes			
	Association	2	0	0
2023	Cowdenbeath	10	10	8
10397	Cowlairs	51	3	0
95	Creetown	0	10	0
216	Crief	1	2	6
1110	Crofthead	5	15	8
918	Crosshouse	4	17	8
332	Cumbernauld	1	14	7
491	Cupar and District	2	11	0
559	Dalmellington	2	18	3
689	Dalmuir	4	13	8
717	Dalry	3	14	8
12206	Dalziel	53	3	1
111	Darngavil	0	12	7
1135	Darvel	5	18	3
1024	Denny and Dunipace	5	7	1
304	Douglas Provident	1	2	10
295	„ Water	1	10	9
777	Dreghorn	3	19	3
4549	Dumbarton	23	13	10
2852	Dumfries and Maxwelltown	14	18	5

Scottish Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES	£	s.	d.
477	Dunblane	2	9	8
2177	Dundee (City of)	11	0	0
2660	„ and District Coal	10	0	0
10674	Dunfermline	55	11	10
524	Duntocher and Hardgate	2	14	7
1935	Dykehead and Shotts	10	1	7
2103	Dysart	10	19	1
304	Earlston	1	11	8
186	East Kilbride	0	18	9
1060	East Wemyss	5	10	5
—	Edinburgh—People's Bank	2	0	0
49521	„ St. Cuthbert's	257	18	5
180	Fergushill	0	18	9
468	Fra-erburgh	2	6	8
115	Frenchie Reform	0	6	0
2583	Galashiels	13	9	0
1392	Galston	5	8	2
91	Gavieside	0	9	6
1016	Gilbertfield	5	5	5
200	Glasgow—Civic Press	2	2	0
2550	„ Drapery & Furnish.	14	0	0
12770	„ Eastern	66	10	0
24050	„ Kinning Park	125	5	2
2696	„ London Road	14	1	0
4703	„ Progress	24	9	11
19935	„ St. George	103	16	7
5941	„ St. Rollox	30	18	10
209	„ United Baking	25	0	0
139	Glenbuck	0	14	6
251	Glengowan	1	6	2
1747	Gorebridge	9	2	0
3322	Grahamston and Bainsford	17	6	0
1510	Grangemouth	7	17	8
161	Gree gairs	0	16	8
8647	Greenock—Central	45	5	6
1056	„ East End	5	10	0
660	Guard Bridge	3	8	11
1248	Haddington	6	10	0
7	Hamilton—Baking	2	0	0
8674	„ Central	19	2	8
496	„ Palace Colliery	2	11	0
4478	Hawick	23	6	11
156	Howwood	0	16	3
263	Hurlet and Nitshill	1	7	5
1003	Hurlford	5	4	6
671	Innerleithen	3	10	0
416	Inverness	2	3	11
1377	Irvine and Fullarton	6	15	11
374	Jedburgh Store Co.	1	13	10
2127	Johnstone	11	1	6
386	Kelso	2	0	3
2400	Kelty	12	10	0
410	Kettle	2	2	9
518	„ Baking	1	7	10
582	Kilbarchan	2	19	4
1737	Kilbirnie	9	0	11
11393	Kilmarnock Equitable	59	0	5
1750	Kilsyth	9	2	3
1328	Kilwinning	6	18	4
209	Kingseat	1	2	0
261	Kirkconnel	1	7	2
2020	Kirkintilloch	10	10	5
1660	Lanark Provident	8	13	0
622	Langholm	3	5	0
821	Larbert	4	5	6
1825	Larkhall	9	7	3
1887	„ Victualling	7	4	9
224	Lassodie	1	3	4
175	Leadhills	0	9	4
36	Levenseat	0	4	0
8358	Leith Provident	43	10	0
407	Lennoxtown	2	2	6

Southern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1524	Godalming.....	7	18	9
838	Gomshall.....	1	15	2
2543	Gravesend, Borough of.....	13	4	8
7140	Grays.....	36	12	1
2401	Great Yarmouth.....	1	1	0
435	Greenstreet.....	2	5	4
3212	Guildford.....	14	11	8
1674	Halstead.....	8	14	4
1834	Harwich and Dovercourt.....	9	11	0
1170	Haslemere and District.....	6	2	0
477	Hastings, St. Leonards, Bex- hill, and District.....	2	9	7
1864	Haverhill.....	9	14	2
1920	Haywards Heath.....	6	7	1
733	Hemel Hempstead.....	3	16	4
1100	High Wycombe.....	5	14	7
475	Hitchin United.....	2	9	6
12788	Ipswich.....	66	12	0
2890	King's Lynn.....	14	14	10
860	Leighton Buzzard.....	4	9	7
1200	Leiston.....	6	5	0
1900	Lewes.....	9	16	2
—	London—Agricultural Orga- nisation.....	2	0	0
1412	„ Anchor.....	7	6	0
—	„ „ Sav'gs Bnk.	0	10	0
77	„ Bookbinders.....	0	8	3
—	„ British Tobacco Growers.....	0	10	0
—	„ British Flax & H'mp Growers.....	0	10	0
—	„ Canteen and Mess..	5	5	0
7526	„ Civil Service Supply	39	4	0
57	„ C. Bass Dressers ..	0	7	0
131	„ Brotherhood Trust..	0	13	8
90	„ Clothiers.....	0	10	6
—	„ Co. Permt. Buildg..	10	10	0
—	„ Co-partner Ten. Ltd	4	0	0
—	„ Ealing Tenants.....	1	12	0
27628	„ Edmonton.....	143	18	0
—	„ Fisheries Organisa- tion.....	0	10	0
2115	„ Hendon Industrial.	11	0	4
8	„ King's Cross Pub- lishing Co.	0	5	0
307	„ Perseverance.....	1	15	5
—	„ Tenant Co-operators	1	16	4
10701	„ West London.....	53	13	0
2176	Lowestoft.....	11	6	8
6340	Luton.....	33	0	5
778	Maidenhead.....	4	1	0
1084	Maidstone.....	4	10	4
1341	Maldon and Heybridge.....	6	16	11
—	„ Medway Ship and Barge	1	1	0
400	Melton Constable.....	2	1	8
498	Mere and District.....	2	11	0
96	Middleton Stoney.....	0	10	0
2508	Newhaven.....	13	1	3
1885	Newmarket.....	8	17	7
655	Newport Pagnell.....	3	8	2
5126	New Swindon Industrial	28	9	5
10486	Norwich.....	54	12	4
310	Olney.....	1	12	4
11350	Oxford.....	59	2	4
48	„ Builders.....	0	6	6
5471	Parkstone and Bournemouth	28	10	0
3567	Penge and Beckenham.....	18	13	5
400	Petersfield.....	2	1	8
15697	Portsea Island.....	81	15	1
347	Pottton.....	1	15	4
729	Rainham.....	3	14	4
794	Ramsgate.....	4	19	3

Southern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
68	Ravenstone.....	0	7	1
10863	Reading.....	56	11	6
1800	Reigate.....	18	13	0
459	Ringwood.....	2	7	10
5440	River and District.....	28	6	8
3456	Rochester.....	18	3	1
899	Romsey.....	2	1	7
1700	St. Albans.....	8	17	1
446	St. Neots.....	2	6	6
592	Saffron Walden.....	3	4	10
1860	Salisbury.....	8	18	0
1173	Sawston.....	6	2	6
690	Shanklin Lake & Branstone	3	12	0
4289	Sheerness.....	20	18	3
3189	„ Economical.....	15	18	9
598	Sherringham.....	3	2	4
41	Sherston C. Milling.....	0	5	0
317	Silsoe.....	1	11	6
4096	Sittingbourne.....	21	6	8
2480	Slough and District.....	12	2	9
7324	Southampton.....	27	10	10
2500	Staines and Egham.....	12	17	11
830	Stony Stratford.....	4	7	6
1602	Stowmarket.....	8	6	11
43149	Stratford.....	219	1	7
260	Sunningdale.....	1	6	0
574	Swoffham.....	2	19	10
90	Swanbourne.....	0	10	0
1368	Thetford.....	7	4	2
804	Tiptree.....	4	3	9
744	Tonbridge.....	3	17	1
1018	Tring.....	5	6	0
4588	Trowbridge.....	23	10	8
2608	Tunbridge Wells.....	13	11	8
710	Walmer and Mongebam...	3	14	0
764	Warminster.....	3	19	6
6680	Watford.....	34	15	9
8744	Weymouth.....	19	10	0
508	Wickham Market.....	2	12	5
4555	Willesden and District.....	23	14	5
430	„ Junction.....	2	5	8
277	Wilton.....	1	9	0
1606	Winchester and District ..	8	7	5
1196	Windsor.....	6	5	0
876	Witham.....	4	9	0
2160	Woking.....	11	5	0
2348	Wolverton.....	12	4	7
56820	Woolwich—Royal Arsenal ..	295	18	9
168	„ Indus. Building..	0	17	6
601	Wymondham.....	3	2	6
1380	Yiewsley and West Drayton.	6	15	6
247	Union Agricole de Jersey ..	1	5	9
—	Railway Clearing House....	2	2	0
490065		£2558	10	3

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
92	Axminster.....	0	9	5
1512	Bath.....	7	17	6
460	Bideford Industrial.....	2	7	11
480	Bodmin.....	2	10	0
722	Bovey Tracey.....	3	15	1
2438	Bridgwater.....	12	14	0
19695	Bristol.....	102	11	6
66	„ Printers.....	0	6	10
1200	Brixham.....	6	2	6
572	Brinton.....	2	1	1
945	Buckfastleigh.....	4	18	5

South-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
186	Budleigh Salterton.....	0	19	5
1000	Camborne	5	4	2
2408	Chard	12	5	9
775	Coleford	4	0	9
114	Colyton	0	11	10
231	Cornwood	1	4	1
181	Cullompton	0	18	10
120	Darite	0	11	6
560	Dartmouth	4	8	1
729	Delabole	3	16	0
445	Devonport Dockyard Cante'n	2	6	4
148	East Harptree	0	15	5
4312	Exeter	22	9	2
980	Exmouth	5	2	0
267	Falmouth	0	7	0
1281	Frome	6	8	1
300	Honiton	1	10	0
220	Ifracombe	2	4	2
161	Kingswear	0	16	10
160	Lee Moor	0	16	8
1647	Liskeard, St. Cleer & District	8	11	6
294	Lostwithiel	1	4	4
253	Menheniot	1	6	0
251	Minehead	1	6	2
2000	Newton Abbot	10	4	2
119	North Tawton	0	13	2
215	Oakhill	1	2	7
478	Okehampton	2	9	9
2128	Paignton	11	1	8
149	Pensilva	0	14	9
1152	Penzance	6	0	0
54136	Plymouth	272	1	10
214	" Printers	1	1	9
970	Plympton	5	1	0
715	Portsmouth	5	0	0
5393	Radstock	30	18	8
172	Roche	0	16	0
1152	St. Austell	7	1	6
930	St. Blazey	1	19	6
761	St. Columb Road	4	19	6
1200	Saltash	12	1	3
600	Sidmouth	3	2	6
590	South Molton and District	3	0	4
2566	Taunton	13	7	3
591	Tavistock	2	15	6
897	Teignmouth	4	10	9
803	Templecombe	1	9	4
933	Tiverton	4	13	9
3673	Torquay	18	3	1
348	Torrington	1	16	3
810	Truro and District	1	12	3
4510	Twerton-on-Avon	23	10	0
460	Wadebridge	2	7	11
1389	Wellington (Somerset)	7	1	5
889	Weston-super-Mare	4	12	7
2612	Yeovil	13	12	0

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WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
4010	Aberdare	20	17	8
326	Abergavenny	1	13	6
278	Abergwnff	1	14	0
8668	Abersychan and Talywain	19	2	0
420	Afan Valley	2	7	1
1806	Alltwen and Pontardawe	9	7	6
1480	Ammanford	7	14	2
1481	Barry and District	7	14	4
2716	Blaenavon	14	2	11
411	Blaengarw	3	4	2

Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
8749	Blaina	45	11	4
113	Bream	0	14	7
340	Brecon and District	1	17	6
1200	Briton Ferry	6	5	0
125	Bryn Colliery	0	12	6
502	Burry Port	2	12	3
1073	Caerau and Maesteg	5	11	9
4804	Cainscross and Ebley	25	0	4
3068	Cardiff	15	18	10
330	Carmarthen	1	14	4
1000	Chepstow	4	19	11
2864	Cinderford	14	18	9
128	Craigefnparc	0	15	7
7630	Cwmbach	39	14	0
404	Cwmbran and Pontnewydd	2	2	1
614	Cwmburla	4	14	4
377	Cwmgorse	1	19	3
231	Cwmllynfell	1	4	0
1591	Cwmtyllery	8	5	9
572	Cymmer	2	19	7
2725	Dowlais Workmen's	15	4	8
1126	Duffryn, Mountain Ash	2	13	8
3700	Ebbw Vale	19	5	5
735	Frampton Cotterell	3	16	7
716	Garnidiffaith and Varteg	5	5	10
14255	Gloucester	71	18	3
376	Glyncorwg	1	19	2
300	Gorslas	1	11	3
1744	Hereford	9	1	8
490	Kemble	2	11	0
1470	Llanelli	7	7	0
105	Llangennech	0	10	10
540	Llanidloes	2	1	10
193	Lower Cwmtwrch	1	0	1
344	Lydney	1	15	0
1617	Merthyr and Troedyrhiw	9	2	2
3150	Mid-Rhondda	16	8	1
2103	Nantymoel	10	19	0
560	Neath Abbey and Skewen	2	18	4
4780	Newport (Mon.)	24	17	11
2460	New Tredegar and District	12	16	2
267	Pontdu	1	11	3
1676	Pembroke Dock	8	14	6
1387	Penarth	7	4	6
402	Penrhiwceiber	2	2	0
3506	Pen-y-graig	18	5	2
410	Pillowell and Yorkley	2	2	9
1365	Pontardulais	7	1	11
184	Pontrhydyfen	1	0	4
948	Pontyberem	1	16	3
1697	Pontycymmer	8	17	2
116	Pontyrhyl	1	2	6
226	Porthcawl	1	8	4
836	Resolven	4	7	0
1785	Senghenydd and Aber Valley	9	6	0
194	South Cerney	0	14	0
4003	Stroud	20	17	0
3734	Swansea	23	0	8
801	" Printers	0	10	6
1392	Taibach and Port Talbot	7	5	0
3358	Ton Industrial	17	5	2
925	Trecynon and Cwmdare	5	6	4
2844	Tredegar Indus. and Prov.	13	10	10
1440	Treharris	7	10	0
1650	Treorchy	8	11	10
153	Trimsaran	0	16	1
86	Upper Lydbrook	0	9	0
340	W. Brecon Farmers' Assoc.	1	15	5
140	Whitland	0	14	11
4005	Ynysyhwyl	19	2	9

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£701 7 1

SUMMARY.

	£	s.	d.
26512 Irish Section	143	19	3
474357 Midland Section.....	2518	5	6
405040 Northern Section	2111	0	9
1316708 North-Western Section	7510	9	10
488954 Scottish Section	2672	4	11
490065 Southern Section.....	2'58	10	3
137656 South-Western Section . . .	714	0	4
135010 Western Section.....	701	7	1
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3174302	£18959	17	11
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THE CO-OPERATIVE

CASH

FROM 1st JANUARY

UNITED BOARD OR

Receipts.

[Figures in () Indicate number of meetings.]

1st January.		£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand—Cashier		14	9	10
30th June.				
To Bank Withdrawals		32111	15	8
„ Receipts on account of International Co operative Alliance ...	£ s. d.	689	1	0
„ „ „ „ Hughes " Scholarship Fund.....		84	11	4
„ „ „ „ Neale " Scholarship Fund		85	0	4
„ „ „ „ Blandford Memorial Fund		65	12	0
„ Expenses refunded		924	4	8
„ Cash due to Congress Fund		5	19	3
		25	0	0

One Central Board Meeting: Manchester.

One Emergency Conference: London.

Eight Meetings, United Board: Manchester.

Eleven Meetings, Office Committee: Manchester.

Ten Meetings, Sub-office Committee: (8) Manchester, (1) Birmingham,
(1) Hereford.

DEPUTATIONS—

United Board: Altrincham, Chester, Harrogate, Hayfield, Keighley,
London, Macclesfield, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham,
Oldham, Sheffield, and Walsall.

French Congress: Paris.

Ruskin College Meetings: London and Oxford.

International Alliance Meetings: London.

War Office Committees: London.

War Emergency Committee: London (25) Meetings.

Food Conferences: Bristol, Leeds, and London.

Boundaries: Abersychan and Newport.

Congress Reception Committee: Cardiff, Manchester, and Swansea.

Scottish Conference: Falkirk.

Central Parliamentary Representation Committee: London and Manchester.

Holyoake Centenary: Birmingham.

Carried forward 33081 9 5

Brought forward £ s. d.
33081 9 5

GENERAL CO-OPERATIVE SURVEY COMMITTEE MEETINGS—

Full Committee : Birmingham and Manchester.*Constitution Sub-committee* : London (5), Manchester (4).*Trade Sub-committee* : Edinburgh (1), London (1), Manchester (3),
York (1).*Educational Sub-committee* : Carlisle (2), Glasgow (1), Leeds (1),
Manchester (2), Newcastle (2), York (1).*Deputations* : Dublin, Grantham, London, Wolverhampton.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—

Manchester (2).

JOINT COMMITTEE, TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS—

Manchester and Warrington.

SPECIAL JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL, TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS—

London (2), Manchester (5).

Conciliation Board Meetings : Cardiff (2), Dewsbury (1), Halifax (1),
Manchester (3).

	£	s.	d.
To Sale of Pamphlets, Song Books, &c.	674	5	7
" " Rules	772	19	10
" " Bond Forms and Impressed Stamps	9	5	3
" " Co-operative Directories	14	13	4
" " Congress Report	48	10	0
" " " Our Story "	215	17	9
" " " Industrial Co-operation "	53	11	9
" " " Co-operative Bookkeeping "	92	2	4
" " Exercise Pads	34	19	3
" " Managers' Text Book	157	3	7
" " " Co-operative Secretary "	29	18	5
" " " Co-operative Auditing "	10	5	9
" " " Co-operation for All "	23	1	0
" " Other Publications	158	2	5
" " <i>Quarterly Reviews</i>	18	7	1
" Postages repaid	66	4	8
			2379 8 0
„ Trade Dividend and Interest on Shares—			
Co-operative Printing Society	74	15	6
Insurance Society	2	4	6
			77 0 0
„ Hire of Rooms			86 14 8
„ Advertising—			
General			32 1 6
Congress Fund			72 15 0
„ Holyoake Memorial Tablet (Birmingham), Plymouth Society			5 5 0

Carried forward 35734 13 7

CASH ACCOUNT.

845

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	3194	5	10	32610	18	6
By GENERAL CO-OPERATIVE SURVEY COMMITTEE—	£	s.	d.			
Travelling	255	18	7			
Expenses	113	0	6			
General Printing	70	10	0	439	9	1
„ PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—						
Travelling	43	8	2			
Expenses	19	14	0			
General Printing	2	2	6	65	4	8
„ JOINT COMMITTEE TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS—						
Travelling	16	17	7			
Expenses	11	0	0			
General Printing	5	5	6	33	3	1
„ SPECIAL JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL, TRADE-UNIONISTS, AND CO-OPERATORS—						
Travelling	58	17	2			
Expenses	24	0	0	82	17	2
„ CONCILIATION BOARDS—						
Travelling	40	14	2			
Expenses	22	10	0			
General Printing	28	15	0	91	19	2
„ HOLYOAKE CENTENARY. BIRMINGHAM—						
Travelling, &c.	15	8	0			
Printing and Advertising	117	0	8			
Tablet	90	0	0	222	8	8
„ Salaries and Wages	1543	12	2			
„ Staff on Active Service	312	8	6			
„ War Bonus	160	3	8			
„ National Health Insurance	4	8	3			
„ Auditing and Scrutiny of Voting	21	0	0	2041	12	7
„ Honorarium (Mrs. J. C. Gray)				104	0	0
„ GENERAL PRINTING AND PURCHASES—						
Circulars and Stationery				1275	19	4
Publications	2181	19	9			
„ Purchased	130	4	0			
Impressed Stamps	3	4	0	2315	7	9
„ Rates and Taxes	412	10	0			
„ Insurance	62	0	10	474	10	10
„ Cleaning	118	14	6			
„ Carriage	69	15	9			
„ Postages	490	0	11			
„ Coke, Heating, and Lighting	117	17	7			
„ Telegrams	7	17	3			
„ Sundries	75	6	4			
„ Caretakers	27	1	0			
„ Co-operative News and Co-operator, &c.	59	17	2			
„ Advertising	23	9	6			
„ Office Furniture and Repairs	106	10	1			
„ Legal Advice	236	14	0			
„ Telephone Rents and Charges	25	9	7			
„ Conference Teas	16	4	1			
„ Registrar's Lists and Reports	6	9	7			
„ Paper and Twine	15	16	0			
„ Railway Contract	53	7	0			
„ Reporting	5	3	6	1455	13	10
„ GRANTS TO—						
War Emergency Workers' Committee	10	0	0			
International Co-operative Alliance	50	0	0			
Agricultural Organisation—Scotland	4	4	0			
Hodgson Pratt Memorial	5	0	0			
Co-operative Newspaper Society	150	0	0	219	4	0
Carried forward	12015	16	0	32610	18	6

Brought forward £ s. d.
35734 13 7

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION—

Education Committee Meetings : Bristol (1), London (1), Manchester (2), York (2).

Education Sub-committee Meetings : Birmingham (1), Hereford (1), Manchester (4).

Deputations : Belfast, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Dublin, Huddersfield, London, Manchester, Middlesbro', Shrewsbury, Whitley Bay, and Winchester.

Tutorial Class Committee : Leeds, Liverpool, Nottingham, and Oxford.

Ruskin College : London and Oxford.

Summer Schools : Birmingham, Bradley Court, London, and Plymouth.

	£	s.	d.
To Donation on account of Secretaries' Lectures	14	15	3
„ Fees—Management Centres	8	15	6
„ „ Secretaries' and Auditing Courses	20	12	0
„ „ Co-operative Bookkeeping Class	62	3	9
„ „ Elocution Class	4	0	0
„ „ Co-operation Class	10	15	0
„ „ Industrial History Class	7	0	0
„ „ Economics, &c.	9	5	0
„ „ Raw Materials Class, &c.	2	2	6
„ „ Entrance Fees and Badges—Educational League	15	12	0
„ „ „ Individual Examination	0	8	0
„ Sale of Educators	112	15	9
	<hr/>		
		268	4 9

To Summer School Receipts	229	5	3
„ Men's Guild Subscriptions	£73	13	11
„ Sale of Rules, Badges, &c.	2	15	5
	<hr/>		
		76	9 4

Four Central Council Meetings : Derby, London, Manchester, and Swansea.

Deputations : Glasgow, Newton Abbot, and Torquay.

Carried forward 36308 12 11

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	12015	16	0	32610	18	6
By EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE—						
Travelling	226	7	3			
Expenses	102	13	6			
				329	0	9
„ TUTORIAL CLASS COMMITTEE—						
Travelling	4	4	3			
Expenses	2	0	0			
				6	4	3
„ SUMMER SCHOOLS—						
Rent and Boarding Accommodation ..	196	11	6			
Other Expenses	5	10	11			
General Printing and Advertising	19	9	0			
Lectures and Travelling	45	14	9			
Returned Fees	0	1	6			
Expenses of London School	43	0	8			
„ Plymouth School	11	1	9			
„ Birmingham School	1	9	0			
				325	19	1
„ Salaries and Wages	934	3	11			
„ War Bonus	89	18	2			
„ National Health Insurance	1	15	9			
				1025	17	10
„ Grants to Classes	29	15	0			
„ „ for Prizes	7	2	6			
„ Prizes for Summer School	17	10	0			
„ „ Junior and Intermediate Exams. „	60	2	6			
„ „ Essay Competitions	3	10	0			
„ „ Secretaries' Course	0	10	6			
				118	10	6
„ EXAMINATION EXPENSES—						
Bookkeeping and Auditing	12	9	0			
Management	14	14	9			
Secretaries' Course	5	12	6			
				32	16	3
TEACHERS' FEES AND EXPENSES—						
Bookkeeping—Correspondence Classes.	64	5	9			
Teachers' Expenses attending Summer						
Schools	8	6	6			
Auditing	9	9	0			
Women's Classes	274	0	9			
Salesmen and Management Classes ..	40	3	4			
„ Lectures for Secretaries	12	12	10			
„ Lectures for Managers	13	6	0			
„ Publications	41	9	1			
„ Advertising	42	5	0			
„ Carriage	0	8	0			
„ Subscriptions	4	4	0			
„ Slides, &c.	35	9	10			
„ General Printing	448	11	4			
„ Hire of Rooms	2	5	0			
„ Grant to Workers' Educational Association	10	0	0			
				1006	16	5
				2845	5	1
„ MEN'S GUILD—						
Travelling	85	8	2			
Expenses	23	7	6			
Grant to Districts	1	11	6			
Postage and Carriage	11	17	1			
General Printing	54	9	0			
				176	13	3

Carried forward15037 14 4 32610 18 6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	363	08	12 11

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS—

London, Manchester, and Newcastle.

	£	s.	d.	
To Expenses repaid by Co-operative Wholesale Society	331	3	6	
" " " Scottish Wholesale Society	331	3	6	
				662 7 0
" Cash due to Secretary	152	10	8	
" Cash on Account 31st December, 1916, expended per Contra ..	50	0	0	
				202 10 8

JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE MEETING—

(6) Manchester.

To Expenses repaid by Co-operative Wholesale Society	136	8	6
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Carried forward	373	09	19 1
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	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	15037	14	4	32610	18	6

By JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE—

	£	s.	d.
Travelling	260	6	2
Expenses	102	15	0
Secretary's Salary	180	0	0
Office Assistance	155	5	0
Rent, Cleaning, &c.	71	2	8
Secretary's Expenses—London	51	18	5
Provincial Towns	97	15	3
Parliamentary Bills, Papers, &c.	48	0	10
Postage, Carriage, Telegrams, &c.	80	3	7
Sundries	6	11	10
Subscriptions	22	10	0
General Printing	423	4	0
Office Furniture	109	9	8
	<u>1559</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

„ JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE—

	£	s.	d.
Travelling	19	13	0
Expenses	11	10	0
Agent's Expenses—Propaganda	47	0	10
Salary	142	0	0
War Bonus	10	7	0
Insurance	0	5	6
Special Propaganda	59	13	0
	<u>200</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>

16887	6	1	16887	6	1
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Carried forward	49498	4	7
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IRISH

	General.		
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	37300	19	1
To Subscriptions	143	19	3
„ Audit Fees received	121	16	0
„ Cash in hand	10	0	0

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Armagh, Belfast (5), Dublin, Dundalk, and Portadown.

CONFERENCES—

Dublin and Lisburn.

Deputations, &c.: Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Larne, Lisburn, Londonderry, Middletown, and Portadown.

Carried forward 37585 14 4

MIDLAND

General.

£ s. d.

Brought forward 37585 14 4

To Subscriptions 2518 5 6
 „ Cash in hand 14 15 2

SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—

Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Kidderminster, Leicester, Lincoln,
 Nottingham, Peterboro', Rugeley, Shrewsbury, and Smethwick.

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Atherstone, Birmingham, Bristol, Burbage, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock, Chirk, Derby, Daventry, Grantham, Jacksdale, Kettering, Kidderminster, Leeds, Leicester, Long Eaton, March, Newark, Northampton, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Oswestry, Retford, Rothwell, Rugby, St. Martins, Selston, Spalding, Stafford, Starchley, Tamworth, Tibshelf, Wellingboro', Welshpool, West Bromwich, Wigston, Woodbrooke, and Wolverhampton.

Deputations : Barrow-on-Soar, Birmingham, Bottesford, Daventry, Derby, Enderby, Groby, Leicester, Lowdham, Manchester, Mount Sorrel, Rugby, Skegness, Starchley, Tamworth, Thrapston, and Worcester.

Public Meetings : Barwell, Bordesley, Burton-on-Trent, Brassington, Campden, Castle Donnington, Chirk, Chilwell, Cinderhill, Clee Hill, Coalbrookdale, Craven Arms, Evesham, Gainsboro', Gotham, Harbourne, Holloway, Ilkeston, Ironbridge, Kegworth, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Lincoln, Long Buckby, Long Eaton, Ludlow, Mansfield, Market Harboro', Minsterley, Newark, Newtown, Northampton, Rainworth, Raunds, Retford, Ripley, Rushden, Shardlow, Skegness, Southwell, Stanton Hill, Sparkhill, Sutton, Swadlinecote, Thrapston, Warsop, Welshpool, West Bromwich, Whitchurch, and Worcester.

Propaganda Meetings : Burton-on-Trent and Northampton.

Conciliation Board Meetings : Burton-on-Trent, Derby, Leicester, Shrewsbury, and Walsall.

Hours and Wages Board Meetings : Birmingham, Boston, Burbage, Cinderhill, Hucknall, Kettering, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Leicester, Lincoln, Lockhurst Lane, Netherfield, Newark, Northampton, Nottingham, Sandiacre, Shrewsbury, Tamworth, Wellingboro', and Wigston.

Carried forward 40118 15 0

SECTION.

						General.
						£ s. d.
	Brought forward					49994 7 10
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—		£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
Travelling	106	2	11			
Expenses	23	0	0			
					129	2 11
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—						
Travelling	172	13	3			
Expenses	74	2	6			
					246	15 9
„ HOURS AND WAGES BOARD—						
Travelling	3	18	11			
Expenses	3	10	0			
Printing, &c.....	11	16	6			
					19	5 5
„ CONCILIATION BOARDS—						
Travelling	18	12	2			
Expenses	12	0	0			
Printing	0	7	0			
					30	19 2
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—						
Northampton and Earls Barton	13	17	6			
Wellingborough and Kettering	26	12	5			
Leicester	12	12	9			
Coventry	18	4	11			
Birmingham	16	0	3			
Stafford	29	14	6			
Derby	13	7	9			
Nottingham	17	0	5			
Lincoln	19	16	3			
Shropshire and Mid-Wales	45	3	9			
					212	10 6
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—						
General Printing	15	14	11			
Postages and Telegrams	12	9	8			
Office Furniture	31	15	0			
Secretary's Honorarium	15	0	0			
Treasurer's „	6	0	0			
Special Propaganda	8	14	4			
					89	13 11
Total Expenditure					728	7 8
„ Cash in hand					10	6 11
Carried forward.....					50733	2 5

NORTHERN

	General		
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	401	18	15 0
To Subscriptions	211	0	9
„ Cash in hand	23	11	4
„ Cash due to Secretary, 31st December, 1917	2	8	3

SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—

Carlisle (1), Newcastle (12).

OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS—

Newcastle (15).

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Ashington, Aspatria, Birtley, Bishop Auckland, Blaydon, Blyth, Broomhill, Carlisle, Coanwood, Craghead, Darlington, Dinnington, Gateshead, Haltwhistle, Middlesbrough, Newbottle, Newcastle, Pegswood, Ryhope, Saltburn, Shotley Bridge, and West Stanley.

Deputations, &c. : Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Backworth, Bebside, Bedlington, Blaydon, Blyth, Cambois, Cleator Moor, Craghead, Hexham, Jarrow, Morpeth, Murton Colliery, Newcastle, Northallerton, North Shields, Prudhoe, Shildon, Stockton, Throckley, Tow Law, Tyne Dock, Wallsend, West Pelton, Whitley Bay, and Willington.

Hours and Wages Board Meetings : Newcastle.

Conciliation Board Meetings : Carlisle and Newcastle.

Holyoake Centenary : Birmingham.

Carried forward 42255 15 4

SECTION.

			General	
			£	s. d.
Brought forward			50733	2 5
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Travelling	31	14 1		
Expenses	11	12 6	43	6 7
OFFICE COMMITTEE—				
Travelling	12	15 2		
Expenses	6	12 6	19	7 8
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—				
Travelling	25	2 0		
Expenses	15	14 11	40	16 11
„ CONCILIATION BOARDS—				
Travelling	7	11 9		
Expenses	5	17 6		
Printing	0	3 6	13	12 9
„ HOURS AND WAGES BOARD—				
Travelling	2	10 4		
Expenses	1	5 0	3	15 4
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—				
North Northumberland	17	17 4		
South Northumberland	10	19 9		
Cumberland and Westmorland	28	0 8		
West Durham and South Northumberland	22	4 0		
East Durham	16	17 7		
South Durham	22	16 3		
South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire...	28	1 4	146	16 11
„ Salaries and Wages	245	2 0		
„ War Bonus	32	8 6		
„ National Health Insurance	0	13 0	278	3 6
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—				
General Printing	49	4 10		
Postages	15	10 0		
Cleaning	8	15 6		
Rent	25	0 0		
Coal, Gas, &c.	9	17 6		
Telephone Rent and Charges	8	13 5		
Telegrams	1	10 5		
Insurance	0	2 9		
Sundries	0	14 10	119	9 3
Total Expenditure			665	8 11
Carried forward			51398	11 4

NORTH-WESTERN

	General.		
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	42255	15	4
To Subscriptions	7540	9	10
„ Cash due to Secretary, 31st December, 1917	39	14	10
„ Bank Interest and Dividend	1	3	4

SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—

Manchester (12).

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Accrington, Ashton, Bacup, Baildon, Bamber Bridge, Barrow, Batley, Bingley, Blackpool, Bolton, Bradford, Burnley, Burslem, Butt Lane, Carnforth, Chesterfield, Chester, Clayton-le-Moors, Colne, Congleton, Crewe, Dalton, Denton, Doncaster, Droylsden, Eccles, Great Horton, Greenfield, Guiseley, Handsworth Woodhouse, Haslingden, Heywood, Hindsley, Hollingworth, Horbury, Horwich, Huddersfield, Keighley, Kippax, Lane Dychouse, Leeds, Leek, Littleboro', Liverpool, Love Clough, Lumb, Macclesfield, Manchester, Masbro', Meltham, Middleton, Mossley, New Hey, New Moston, Oldham, Padiham, Pendleton, Penmaenmawr, Preston, Queensbury, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Ravensthorpe, Rawtenstall, Rochdale, Sheffield, Shireoaks, Silverdale, Sowerby Bridge, Stalybridge, Swinton, Ulverston, Wakefield, Walkden, Walmer Bridge, Whalley, Westhoughton, Whittington, Winsford, and Woodfold.

Deputations : Bacup, Barnsley, Blaenau Festiniog, Chorley, Criccieth, Denholme, Eagley, Manchester, Penrhydeudraeth, Portmadoc, Radcliffe, Rochdale, Trefnant, Waterfoot, and Whitewell Bottom.

Amalgamations and Boundaries : Accrington, Bacup, Bolton, Colne, Falsworth, Hasland, Leigh, Manchester, Prestwich, Stacksteads, Summerseat, Tottington, Tunstead, and Whitefield.

Classes and Choral : Bradford, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike, and Manchester.

Congress Reception Committee : Manchester.

Conciliation Board Meetings : Batley, Bradford, Brighouse, Dewsbury, Hebden Bridge, Heckmondwike, Keighley, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Masbro', Wakefield, and York.

Hours and Wages Board Meetings : Accrington, Ashton, Bacup, Batley, Barrow, Birkenhead, Blackburn, Blackley, Blackpool, Bradford, Burnley, Burslem, Cawl Terrace, Chester, Cloughfold, Congleton, Colne, Crewe, Darwen, Dewsbury, Great Horton, Halifax, Heywood, Huddersfield, Keighley, Lane Dychouse, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Masbro', Middleton, Oldham, Preston, Radcliffe, Rawtenstall, Rochdale, St. Helens, Sheffield, Shipley, Skipton, Stockport, Wakefield, Warrington, and Waterfoot.

Carried forward 49837 3 4

SECTION.

		General.	
		£	s. d.
Brought forward		51398	11 4
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—	£ s. d.	£	s. d.
Travelling	110 2 4		
Expenses	32 6 0	142	8 4
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—			
Travelling	80 11 11		
Expenses	70 7 3	150	19 2
„ HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS—			
Travelling	38 18 4		
Expenses	36 10 6		
Printing, &c.....	16 7 5	91	16 3
„ DEMONSTRATION AND CHOIRS COMMITTEE—			
Travelling	0 3 2		
Expenses	0 4 6	0	7 8
„ CONCILIATION BOARDS—			
Travelling	21 5 5		
Expenses	40 12 0		
Printing, &c.....	17 3 5	79	0 10
„ CONGRESS RECEPTION COMMITTEE—			
Travelling	9 9 7		
Expenses	5 6 0	14	15 7
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—			
Airedale	20 12 8		
Bolton	16 10 1		
Calderdale	6 17 6		
Cheshire and North Wales	57 10 8		
Dewsbury	27 14 3		
East Yorkshire	29 1 7		
Huddersfield	14 13 5		
Macclesfield, Crewe, and District	27 10 1		
Manchester	40 19 9		
North-East Lancashire	48 7 7		
North Lancashire	36 19 7		
North Lonsdale	30 1 4		
Oldham	14 3 11		
Rochdale	30 10 6		
Rossendale	16 13 2		
South Yorkshire	40 6 10	458	12 11
„ Salaries	280 8 0		
„ War Bonus	33 17 0		
„ Insurance	0 13 0	323	18 0
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—			
General Printing	113 19 9		
Postages and Telegrams	40 7 11		
Sundries	9 2 4		
Hire of Rooms	2 5 0		
Bank Charges	0 15 0	166	10 0
Total Expenditure		1428	8 9
Cash due to Secretary, 1st January, 1917		6	7 2
Carried forward		52833	7 3

SCOTTISH

		General.		
		£	s.	d.
Brought forward		49837	3	4
To Subscriptions		2672	4	11
„ Cash in hand		28	10	2
„ Rents		21	7	0
„ Interest		0	6	4

SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—

Glasgow (12).

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Glasgow (25).

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS—

Aberdeen, Bridge of Allan, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, Leith,
Lochgorrhead, Perth, Rothesay, and York.

CONFERENCES, &C.—

Alloa, Alva, Barrhead, Blantyre, Bonnybridge, Brechin, Buckhaven,
Burntisland, Cambuslang, Camelon, Carnoustie, Clydebank,
Cumbernauld, Dalmellington, Dalmuir, Dumbarton, Dunblane,
Dundee, Dunfermline, Dysart, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow,
Greenock, Hawick, Kilmarnock, Kirkconnell, Leith, Montrose,
Neilston, Paisley, Partick, Penicuik, Perth, Prestonpans, Renfrew,
Shettleston, Stenhousemuir, Townhill, Tranent, and Walkerburn.*Propaganda Meetings*: Clydebank, Coalburn, Dumbarton, Edin-
burgh, Glasgow, Kames, Kilmarnock, Kirkconnell, Kirkcaldy,
Paisley, Port Glasgow, and Tyhnabrualck.*S.W.C.S. Meetings*: Edinburgh and Glasgow.*Arbitration and Advisory Boards*: Alloa, Camelon, Coalsnaughton,
Dysart, Falkirk, Glasgow, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Motherwell,
Paisley, Stirling, and Tillicoultry.

Carried forward 52559 11 9

SECTION.

						General.
						£ s. d.
	Brought forward					52833 7 3
BY SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—		£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
Travelling		54	3	6		
Expenses		14	0	0		
					68	3 6
„ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—						
Travelling		35	7	6		
Expenses		17	0	0		
					52	7 6
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—						
Travelling		91	19	11		
Expenses		58	6	6		
					150	6 5
„ EDUCATION COMMITTEE—						
Travelling		13	19	6		
Expenses		8	7	6		
					22	7 0
„ Salaries and Wages		429	6	2		
„ War Bonus		55	9	8		
„ National Health Insurance		1	6	0		
					486	1 10
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION GRANTS—						
Ayrshire		3	0	0		
Border Counties		3	0	0		
Central		3	0	0		
East of Scotland		3	0	0		
Falkirk		3	0	0		
Fife and Kinross		3	0	0		
Glasgow and Suburbs		3	0	0		
Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen		3	0	0		
Renfrewshire		3	0	0		
Stirling, West of Fife and Clackmannan		3	0	0		
					30	0 0
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—						
General Printing		69	8	8		
Postages		29	12	0		
Carriage		1	3	1		
Sundries		2	11	6		
Telegrams and Address		1	16	9		
Telephone Rent and Charges		9	10	0		
Cleaning and Caretakers		77	13	2		
Gas, Coal, and Electricity		24	14	8		
Rent of Office		49	0	0		
Rates and Taxes		15	18	0		
Advertising		0	13	6		
Railway Contract		12	9	0		
Bank Charges		1	5	0		
Treasurer's Honorarium		5	0	0		
Hire of Halls		4	7	6		
Legal Advice		68	4	9		
Propaganda		200	0	0		
Grant to Women's Guild		175	0	0		
Donation—Scottish Musical Association		1	1	0		
Conference Speaker		1	10	0		
Typewriter		20	10	0		
					771	8 7
„ Cash in hand	Total Expenditure					1580 14 10
						16 5 11
Carried forward					54430	8 0

SOUTHERN

General.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	52559	11	9

To Subscriptions	2558	10	3
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SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—

London (15).

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

London (11).

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS—

London and Sutton.

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Amesbury, Andover, Ashford, Banbury, Bishop's Stortford, Bletchley, Bradford-on-Avon, Bromley, Cambridge, Chatham, Chippenham, Cowes, Edmonton, Guildford, Haslemere, Ipswich, London, Luton, Newmarket, Norwich, Oxford, Penge, Rochester, St. Albans, Sheringham, Slough, Stratford, Swindon, Tunbridge Wells, Winchester, and Wolverton.

Deputations: Aldershot, Arlesey, Banbury, Beceles, Berkhamstead, Bletchley, Brighton, Cambridge, Chesham, Cliffe-at-Hoo, Crayford, Eastleigh, Ely, Farnboro', Gomshall, Hemel Hempstead, Henley, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Letchworth, London, Luton, Portsmouth, Reigate, Ringwood, Saffron Walden, Sturminster, Tring, Wandsworth, Watford, Willesden, Winchester, Windsor, Witham, and Wolverton.

Public Meetings and Festivals: Addlestone, Aldershot, Alton, Bedford, Berkhamstead, Bletchley, Bournemouth, Byfleet, Calne, Cambridge, Colchester, Cowes, Croydon, Eastbourne, Eastleigh, Farnboro', Gravesend, Haslemere, Hendon, Holloway, King's Lynn, Kingston, Maidstone, Newport, Penge, Portsmouth, Pye, Redhill, Ringwood, Saffron Walden, Silsoe, Sittingbourne, Southampton, Staines, Stony Stratford, Swindon, Wandsworth, Watford, Wembley, Winchester, Wolverton, and Woolwich.

Examinations and Classes: Abbey Wood, Edmonton, Enfield, London, Penge, Portsmouth, Woking, Wolverton, and Wood Green.

Holyoake Centenary: Birmingham.

Carried forward	55118	2	0
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SECTION.

					General.
					£ s. d.
Brought forward					54430 8 0
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—	£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
Travelling	87	9	6		
Expenses	16	15	0		
				104	4 6
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—					
Travelling	20	10	10		
Expenses	6	7	6		
				26	18 4
CONFERENCES, &c.—					
Travelling	214	9	2		
Expenses	79	0	7		
				293	9 9
DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—					
North Metropolitan	16	15	8		
South Metropolitan	9	15	7		
Sussex	9	10	8		
Hants.....	43	1	0		
Wilts. and Dorset	40	18	7		
Oxford	19	19	11		
Cambridge.....	30	3	10		
Norfolk	36	16	2		
Essex and Suffolk	22	8	6		
Beds. and Bucks.....	27	1	3		
				256	11 2
Salaries and Wages	316	10	11		
War Bonus	38	10	5		
National Health Insurance	0	13	0		
				355	14 4
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—					
General Printing	66	17	6		
Postages	44	5	7		
Carriage	0	5	11		
Telegrams	4	3	11		
Sundries and Repairs	1	15	6		
Office Rent	40	0	0		
Telephone Rent and Charges	4	4	7		
Publications	1	9	6		
Assistance	5	0	11		
Conference Delegations	0	15	6		
Special Propaganda—Kingston	5	0	0		
Office Furniture, &c.	33	16	4		
Hire of Halls	10	10	0		
Bank Charges	2	3	3		
				220	8 6
Total Expenditure.....				1257	6 7
Cash due to Secretary, 1st January, 1917				49	15 9
Cash in hand, 31st December, 1917				13	9 5

Carried forward 55750 19 9

SOUTH-WESTERN

	General.		
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	551	18	2 0
To Subscriptions	714	0	4
„ Cash in hand	29	13	11
„ Bank Interest	0	2	2

SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—

Bridgwater (1), Bristol (2), Exeter (2), Liskeard (1), Newton Abbot (2), Plymouth (2), Tavistock (1), Twerton (1).

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Bodmin, Bristol, Exeter, Exmouth, Falmouth, Liskeard, Lostwithiel, Newton Abbot, Okehampton, Pensilva, Plymouth, Redruth, St. Austell, Taunton, Teignmouth, Torquay, Truro, Twerton, and Weston-super-Mare.

Deputations to Societies and Members' Meetings, &c. : Bath, Bodmin, Bovey Tracey, Brent, Bristol, Brixham, Budleigh Salterton, Cullompton, Delabole, Dobwalls, Falmouth, Ilfracombe, Kingswear, Liskeard, Lostwithiel, Midsomer Norton, Minehead, Nanpean, Newton Abbot, Pensilva, Penzance, Plymouth Printers, Plymouth, Redruth, St. Austell, South Molton, Tavistock, Templecombe, Torquay, and Wellington.

Propaganda Meetings : Blackpool, Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh, Salterton, Lerwyn, Okehampton, Paulton, Penzance, St. Austell, St. Neots, Tavistock, Teign Village, and Twerton.

Summer School : Whymstone.

Holyoake Centenary : Birmingham.

Carried forward 55861 18 5

SECTION.

						General.
						£ s. d.
Brought forward	°	.....	55750	19	9	
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—		£ s. d.	£	s.	d.	
Travelling	.....	97 16 7				
Expenses	.....	13 10 0				
			111	6	7	
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—						
Travelling	.....	114 16 0				
Expenses	.....	38 15 0				
			153	11	0	
„ SUMMER SCHOOL—						
Travelling	.....	2 6 11				
Expenses	.....	3 10 0				
			5	16	11	
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—						
Cornwall	.....	48 0 0				
Somerset	.....	40 5 7				
Devon	.....	30 16 10				
			119	2	5	
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—						
General Printing	.....	18 12 11				
Postages	.....	6 1 4				
Honorariums—Secretary	.....	15 15 0				
„ Treasurer	.....	3 3 0				
Special Propaganda—Barnstaple	.....	1 5 0				
„ Cornish	.....	15 2 2				
„ St. Austell	.....	2 17 6				
Bank Charges	.....	0 4 2				
			63	1	1	
Total Expenditure	.....		452	18	0	
Cash in hand	.....		23	9	11	
Carried forward	.....		56227	7	8	

WESTERN

	General.		
	£ s d		
Brought forward	558	61	18 6
To Subscriptions	701	7	1
.. Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917	0	5	8
.. Cash due to Treasurer, 31st December, 1917	1	4	0

SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—

Cardiff (10), Newport (1), Swansea (1).

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Aberdare, Bristol, Cardiff, Gloucester, Newport, Penrhiwceber, Swansea, Treharris, and Trimsaran.

Deputations to Societies and Public Meetings: Bream, Bridgend, Caerau, Cardiff, Dowlais, Hereford, Milford Haven, Mitcheldean, Nantyglo, Nantymoel, Neath, Newport, and Skewen.

Women's Guild Conference: Weston-super-Mare.

Hours and Wages Board Meetings: Cardiff and Swansea.

Conciliation Board Meetings: Cardiff.

Congress Reception Committee: Cardiff.

Holyoake Centenary: Birmingham.

SECTION.

			General.		
			£	s.	d.
Brought forward			562	27	7 8
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—					
	£	s. d.	£	s.	d.
Travelling	39	16 0			
Expenses	8	17 6			
			48	13	6
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—					
Travelling	46	2 3			
Expenses	13	0 0			
			59	2	3
„ HOURS AND WAGES BOARD—					
Travelling	31	18 1			
Expenses	9	12 6			
Printing, &c.....	9	13 0			
			51	3	7
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—					
Brecon (Mon.) and East Glamorgan.....	38	12 7			
West Wales.....	52	3 10			
Gloucester and Hereford	31	14 0			
Mid-Glamorgan	10	1 10			
			132	12	3
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—					
General Printing	10	16 5			
Postage	5	10 0			
Hire of Rooms	2	6 6			
Honorarium—Secretary	15	0 0			
„ Treasurer	3	3 0			
Special Propaganda—Cwmbwrla	9	0 0			
			45	15	11
Total Expenditure			337	7	6

£56564 15 2

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Cash balances in hand—Irish Executive	10	0	0			
" " " Midland Section	14	15	2			
" " " Northern Section	23	11	4			
" " " Scottish Section	28	10	2			
" " " South-Western Section	29	13	11			
" " " Western Section	0	5	8			
" " " Central Office	14	9	10			
				121	6	1
„ Subscriptions—Ireland	0	15	0			
„ „ „ Midland Section				143	4	3
„ „ „ Northern Section	0	10	0	2518	5	6
„ „ „ North-Western Section	3	0	0	2110	10	9
„ „ „ Scottish Section	1	0	0	7537	9	10
„ „ „ Southern Section	0	5	0	2871	4	11
„ „ „ South-Western Section	0	10	0	2558	5	3
„ „ „ Western Section	0	10	0	713	10	4
				700	17	1
	£6	10	0	£18953	7	11
„ Sale of Publications				18959	17	11
„ Audit Fees—Ireland				2379	8	0
„ Advertising				121	16	0
„ Trade Dividends and Interest				32	1	6
„ Hire of Rooms				77	0	0
„ Expenses refunded				86	14	8
„ Educational Receipts				5	19	3
„ Men's Guild Receipts				497	10	0
„ Joint Parliamentary Committee Expenses repaid				76	9	4
„ Joint Propaganda Committee Expenses repaid				662	7	0
„ Congress Fund—Advertising				136	8	6
„ South-Western Section—Bank Interest and Dividend				72	15	0
„ North-Western Section— „ „				0	2	2
				1	3	4
„ Scottish Section—Interest				£	s.	d.
„ „ „ Rents				0	6	4
				21	7	0
„ Cash due—Northern Section				21	13	4
„ „ „ North-Western Section				2	8	3
„ „ „ Western Section				39	14	10
„ „ „ to Congress Fund				1	4	0
„ Parliamentary Secretary, &c.				25	0	0
„ „ „ Cash Paid on Account, 1916				152	10	8
„ Congress Fund				50	0	0
„ Holyoake Memorial Tablet—Plymouth Society				25	0	0
„ Various Funds, as per Cash Account				5	5	0
„ Bank Withdrawals				924	4	8
				2111	15	8
				£56504	15	2

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE.

CASH ACCOUNT.

867

	Totals.	United Board and Central Office.	Educational Committee.	Joint Parliamentary Committee.	Joint Propaganda Committee.	Irish Executive.	Midland Section.	North-western Section.	Scottish Section.	South-eastern Section.	South-western Section.	Western Section.
Meetings—Travelling.....	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
" Expenses.....	3462 7 3	1534 9 2	230 11 6	260 6 2	19 13 0	49 15 4	278 16 2	69 11 3	0 155 10	5 322 9	6 214 19	6 55 18
Salaries, Wages, Bonus, and National Health Insurance..	1804 2 8	1047 5 11	104 13 6	102 15 0	11 10 0	21 2 6	97 2 6	33 19 11	0 102 3	1 55 15	0 31 17	6
General Printing.....	5333 16 7	2145 12	7 1025 17	10 285 5 0	152 12 6	222 10 0	21 0 0	278 3 6	923 18 0	486 1 10	355 14 4	18 3 0
Publications—Printed and purchased.....	2831 1 4	1456 2 1	443 11 4	423 4 0	....	8 8 11	15 14 11	49 4 10	113 19 9	69 8 8	66 17 6	10 16 5
Rents, Rates, Taxes, and Insurance.....	2356 16 10	2315 7 9	41 9 1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
District Association Expenses..	675 11 6	474 10 10	....	71 2 8	....	....	212 10 6	146 16 11	458 12 11	80 0 0	256 11 2	5 132 12
Conciliation and Hours and Wages Board Expenses.....	1356 6 2	....	....	....	....	....	50 4 7	17 8 1	170 17 1	....	....	51 3 7
Grants to Other Bodies.....	331 12 6	91 19 2	....	....	....	50 0 0	....	....	....	175 0 0	....	....
Summer Schools.....	458 8 0	219 4 0	14 4 0	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Men's Guild.....	325 19 1	....	325 19 1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	166 13 3	....	166 13 3	....	....	....	52 19 0	45 4 5	52 10 3	462 1 11	113 11 0	25 10 2
Congress Expenses.....	3832 5 9	1772 3 10	653 18 9	416 9 7	106 13 10	134 6 6	....	....	....	....	....	16 16 6
969 0 8	....	969 0 8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals.....	23324 1 7	12025 16 0	3011 18	41559 2 5	290 9 4	456 3 3	728 7 8	665 8 11	1428 8 9	1580 14 10	1257 6 7	452 18 0
Other Funds paid over.....	1042 19 6	1042 19 6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0 337 7
Cash Balances Due to Sections, 1st January, 1917.....	56 2 11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6 7 2	....	49 15 9	....
Cash Balances in Hand, 31st December, 1917.....	107 16 7	33 18 5	....	....	....	10 0 0	10 6 11	....	....	16 5 11	13 9 5	23 9 11
C.W.S. Loan Investment.....	7500 0 0	7500 0 0	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Bank Deposits.....	24034 0 7	24034 0 7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
56564 15 2	44636 14 6	3011 18	41559 2 5	290 9 4	496 3 3	738 14 7	665 8 11	1434 15 11	1597 0 9	1320 11 9	476 7 11	337 7 6

DR.	BANKING ACCOUNT.		CR.
1st January, 1917:—		31st December, 1917:—	
To Balance	£ s. d. 12157 13 2	By Withdrawals	£ s. d. 82111 15 8
31st December, 1917:—		„ Commission	17 16 5
„ Deposits	24034 0 7	„ Balance	4542 1 8
„ Dividend	116 8 8		
„ Interest	863 11 4		
	<u>£36671 13 9</u>		<u>£36671 13 9</u>



HOLYOAKE MEMORIAL.*Statement of Accounts of the New Building Fund up to 31st December, 1917.***CASH ACCOUNT.**

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions	25807	8	6	By Land and Buildings	22362	7	10
„ Transfer (Owen Memorial Fund) ..	90	13	8	„ Furniture and Fittings	1088	3	5
„ Sewering Expense, repaid	32	0	0	„ Chief Rents	33	3	0
„ Rent	461	3	4	„ Rates, Cleaning, and Insurance ..	505	10	8
„ Bank Withdrawals	26118	5	2	„ Opening Expenses	204	9	5
				„ Removal Charges	61	15	6
				„ Sewering and other expenses ..	71	11	5
				„ Subscriptions refunded	5	12	0
				„ "Holyoake Memorial" Grave ..	237	5	0
				„ Expenses on Property (old)	371	13	3
				„ Bank Deposits	27567	19	2
	£52509	10	8		£52509	10	8

BANK ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Deposits	27567	19	2	By Withdrawals	26118	5	2
„ Bank Dividend	£247	17	7	„ Interest (overdraft) ..	£69	7	2
„ Trade Dividend ..	209	0	0	„ Commission and			
„ Interest	1461	19	2	„ Cheques	18	12	6
	1918	16	9	„ Stamping Agreements ..	5	0	0
					87	19	8
				„ Balance	3280	11	1
	£29486	15	11		£29486	15	11

PROPERTY REVENUE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Expenses	189	10	3	By Rents	461	3	4
„ Balance (Income and Expenditure Account) ..	271	13	1				
	£461	3	4		£461	3	4

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Cost of Holyoake Grave	237	5	0	By Transfer (Owen Memorial Fund) ..	90	13	8
„ Expenses of Site	182	3	0	„ Property Revenue Account ..	271	13	1
„ Opening, Removal, and other expenses ..	876	10	0	„ Expenses repaid	32	0	0
„ Bank Charges	87	19	8	„ Bank Dividend and Interest ..	1918	16	9
„ Balance	929	5	10				
	£2318	3	6		£2318	3	6

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions	25801	16	6	By Land and Buildings	22362	7	10
„ Balance Income over Expenditure	929	5	10	„ Furniture and Fittings	1088	3	5
	£26731	2	4	„ Balance in Bank	3280	11	1
					£26731	2	4

HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Dr.

FUND ACCOUNT.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Scholarship Fund	2000	0	0	By Investment in Co-operative Wholesale Society	1340	0	0
				" " Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society ..	640	0	0
	£2000	0	0		£2000	0	0

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1917.				1917.			
To Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 1st January, 1917 ..	203	3	0	By Cash in hands Co-operative Union, 31st December, 1917 ..	287	14	4
" Interest received during the year :—							
English Wholesale Society	£54	5	0				
Scottish Wholesale Society	30	6	4				
	84	11	4				
	£287	14	4		£287	14	4

NEALE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Dr.

FUND ACCOUNT.

Cr.

To Scholarship Fund	£	s.	d.
	2000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£2000	0	0

By Investment in Co-operative Wholesale Society	£	s.	d.
" " Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society	1300	0	0
	700	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£2000	0	0

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

1917.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 1st January, 1917....	95	3	3
" Interest received during the year:—			
English Wholesale Society.....	£51	17	2
Scottish Wholesale Society.....	33	3	2
	<hr/>		
	85	0	4
	<hr/>		
	£180	3	7

1917.	£	s.	d.
By Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 31st December, 1917..	190	3	7

£180 3 7

Statement of Receipts and
Expenditure of Swansea
Congress, 1917.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of exclusive of Central Board

RECEIPTS.

To DONATIONS :—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
English Co-operative Wholesale Society	150	0	0			
Swansea " Society	100	0	0			
Cwmbwrla " " 	25	0	0			
				275	0	0
" Advertisements in Handbook				74	10	0
" Bank Interest	£2	4	3			
" " Dividend	1	13	6			
					3	17
" Paid by the Co-operative Union Limited				886	6	8
" Balance due by the Co-operative Union Limited				25	0	0

I have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Swansea Congress Fund for the year 1917, and compared all counterfoils of acknowledgments for cash received and vouchers for all payments made, and hereby certify the above Statement of Accounts as correct.

: T. Wood,
Public Auditor.

Blandford Memorial Fund—Receipts	£55	12	0
Collection at P.S.A.....	1	0	0
Transferred to Fund	£65	12	0

£1214 13 5

the Co-operative Congress, Swansea, 1917, Fees and Expenses.

EXPENDITURE.

By LODGINGS AND LUNCHEONS COMMITTEE:—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Luncheons—Delegates		411	2	6			
Luncheon—Central Board		48	8	0			
Printing		7	13	3			
Postages		3	0	0			
Hire of Rooms and Tables		22	13	4			
					487	17	1
„ PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:—							
Speakers—Travelling and Expenses ..		17	16	2			
Hire of Piano		3	8	0			
Musicians, Artistes, &c.		61	15	0			
Printing		4	10	0			
Hire of Rooms ..		2	9	6			
					89	13	8
„ CONGRESS GUIDE AND HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:—							
Souvenir—Printing and Binding		222	0	0			
Photographs, blocks, and Reproduction Fees		61	0	0			
Guidebook—Printing		30	0	0			
Editor and Writing Articles		70	10	0			
Sundries and Carriage		13	0	0			
					396	10	0
„ FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:—							
Hire of Congress Hall		39	13	0			
Decorating Hall and Street Sign		15	13	10			
Fitting up Inquiry Office		7	11	4			
Billposting		9	2	0			
Advertising		31	15	6			
Doorkeepers and Caretakers		13	16	3			
Printing ..		14	8	6			
Delegates' Congress Reception Committee Badges		11	10	0			
Postages, Stationery, Typing, &c.		4	8	1			
					147	18	6
„ Sundry Expenses					2	5	8
„ Advertising					8	0	0
„ Binding, &c., Presentation Volumes					2	2	0
„ General Printing					54	8	11
„ Bank Charges - Commission					0	18	0
„ Honorariums—Secretaries					25	0	0

**SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION
LIMITED FOR CO-OPERATIVE PARLIAMENTARY
REPRESENTATION FUND UP TO AND INCLUDING
5th JUNE, 1918.**

MIDLAND SECTION.

	£	s.	d.
Annesley Woodhouse	2	0	0
Birmingham Industrial	84	0	0
" Printers.....	2	2	0
Bolsover	4	0	0
Bulwell	6	0	0
Burbage	2	0	0
Burton Latimer	2	0	0
Burton-on-Trent	22	0	0
Cinderhill	6	0	0
Coventry Perseverance	48	0	0
Crompton Boot and Shoe	2	0	0
Daventry	2	10	0
Derby	66	0	0
" Printers.....	2	0	0
Desboro'	4	0	0
Earls Barton	2	0	0
Enderby	4	0	0
Excelsior Boot and Shoe (Sileby)	2	0	0
Gainsboro'	10	0	0
Great Grimsby	22	0	0
Great Wigston	4	4	0
Harpole	2	0	0
Highley	2	0	0
Hucknall Torkard	10	0	0
Huncote	1	0	0
Ilkeston	12	0	0
Irthlingboro'	2	0	0
Kettering	17	0	0
" Boot and Shoe	4	0	0
" Union Boot and Shoe	2	2	0
Kirkby-in-Ashfield	6	0	0
" Manufacturi'g.	2	0	0
Langley Mill and Aldercar	14	0	0
Lea and Holloway.....	2	0	0
Leicester	56	0	0
" Anchor Boot and Shoe..	2	0	0
" Boot and Shoe	5	0	0
" Printing	2	0	0
" Self-Help Boot & Shoe.	2	0	0
Lincoln	38	0	0
Lockhurst Lane	8	0	0
Long Eaton	24	0	0
Lowdham	2	0	0
Mansfield and Sutton	28	0	0
Netherfield	6	0	0
Newark	6	0	0
Newtown (Mon.)	2	0	0
Nottingham	36	0	0
Nuneaton	18	0	0
Oswestry	2	2	0
Peterboro'	40	0	0
Pioneer Boot Works	2	0	0
Pleasley and Pleasley Hill	3	0	0
Raunds Distributive	4	0	0
Ripley	25	0	0
Rothwell	4	0	0
Ruddington	2	0	0
Rugeley.....	4	0	0

MIDLAND SECTION—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Rushden	5	0	0
Shrewsbury	9	0	0
Soho	18	0	0
Southwell	2	0	0
Stanton Hill	4	0	0
Stoney Stanton	2	0	0
Ten Acres and Storchley.....	24	0	0
Thrapston	2	0	0
Tibshelf	2	0	0
Tipton	2	2	0
Walsall	28	0	0
" Locks and Cart Gear	2	0	0
Warsop Vale	2	0	0
Wednesbury	4	0	0
Wellingboro'	8	0	0
Welshpool	2	0	0
Wolverhampton.....	14	0	0
Worcester	14	0	0

£840 2 0

NORTHERN SECTION.

	£	s.	d.
Amble	4	0	0
Ashington Equitable	2	0	0
" Industrial	12	0	0
Aspatia	6	0	0
Bedlington	6	0	0
Birtley	12	0	0
Blaydon	30	0	0
Blyth	6	0	0
Boldon	8	0	0
Cleator Moor	16	0	0
Consett	8	0	0
Craghead and Holmside	2	0	0
Cramlington	10	0	0
Egremont	4	0	0
Esh	2	0	0
Guisborough	4	0	0
Haltwhistle.....	2	0	0
Hetton Downs	6	0	0
Keswick	2	0	0
Malton and Norton	2	0	0
Middlesbrough	52	0	0
Newbiggin	6	0	0
Newbottle	6	0	0
New Brancepeth	2	8	0
Newcastle-on-Tyne	80	0	0
New Delaval	2	2	0
Northallerton	2	2	0
North Shields	10	0	0
Pegswood	2	0	0
Penrith	4	0	0
Radcliffe Equitable	1	0	0
Seaham Harbour	8	0	0
Seaton Delaval	4	0	0

NORTHERN SECTION—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Seghill	2	0	0
South Shields	12	0	0
Tantobie	2	0	0
Teesdale Workmen's	2	14	0
Thirsk	2	0	0
Throckley	4	0	0
Tow Law	4	0	0
Wallsend	15	0	0
Warwick Bridge	2	0	0
West Wylam and Prudhoe	10	0	0
Whitby	4	0	0
Willington	6	0	0
Windy Nook	4	0	0
Workington Industrial	6	0	0
„ Beehive	8	0	0

£407 6 0

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	£	s.	d.
Accrington and Church	22	0	0
Adlington	2	0	0
Allerton	1	5	0
Barkisland	0	8	0
Barnsley	102	0	0
Barrowford	2	0	0
Barrow-in-Furness	32	0	0
Batley	13	12	0
Bentham	2	0	0
Beverley	2	0	0
Bingley	8	0	0
Birkenhead	40	0	0
Birstall	6	0	0
Blackley	16	0	0
Bolton	86	0	0
Bradford, City of	48	0	0
Brierfield	3	5	0
Bridge End, Todmorden	2	0	0
Brighouse	20	0	0
Brightside and Carbrook	65	0	0
Brockholes	2	0	0
Brymbo	2	0	0
Bryn Gates	2	0	0
Buckley	2	0	0
Burnley	36	17	4
Burslem	32	0	0
Buttershaw	2	0	0
Butt Lane	6	0	0
Castleford Industrial	12	0	0
Cefn and District	4	0	0
Chesterfield	12	0	0
Churwell	2	0	0
Clayton	2	0	0
Clown	4	0	0
Colne and District	12	0	0
Compstall	8	0	0
Coniston	0	10	6
Crewe	26	0	0
Crigglestone	2	2	0
Crosland Moor	2	0	0
Cross Hills	2	0	0
Delph	2	0	0
Denholme	2	0	0
Denton and Haughton	4	0	0
Dewsbury	32	0	0
Disley	2	0	0
Doncaster	34	0	0
Eccles Provident	40	19	2
Emley	2	0	0
Failsworth	24	0	0
Fynnon Groyw	2	0	0

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Fleetwood	6	6	8
Flint and Oakenholt	2	0	0
Garston	4	0	0
Glossop Dale	8	0	0
Gomersal	4	0	0
Goole	7	0	0
Grangemoor Friendly	1	8	4
Great Harwood	8	0	0
Great Horton	16	0	0
Great Rocks	2	0	0
Greenfield	2	0	0
Greengates and Apperley Bridge	2	0	0
Guiseley	4	0	0
Handsworth Woodhouse	6	0	0
Harrogate	12	0	0
Hasland	2	0	0
Haworth	4	0	0
Hebden Bridge Fustian	10	0	0
Heckmondwike	22	0	0
Higher Hurst	4	0	0
Hill Top Paddock	2	0	0
Holmfild	0	13	6
Horwich	8	0	0
Huddersfield	42	0	0
Hull	52	10	0
„ Printers	2	0	0
Hyde	8	0	0
Keighley	26	0	0
Kendal	6	0	0
Killamarsh	2	0	0
Kilnhurst	4	0	0
Kippax	3	0	0
Lancaster	28	0	0
Lane Dyehouse	2	0	0
Leeds	142	0	0
Leek and Moorlands	10	0	0
Lees and Cross Roads	2	0	0
Leigh Friendly	26	0	0
Leven Valley	0	10	0
Littleborough	5	0	0
Little Lever	2	0	0
Liverpool	94	0	0
Longridge	3	0	0
Longwood	2	0	0
Love Clough	2	0	0
Luddendenfoot	1	10	0
Macclesfield	16	0	0
Manchester & Dist. Laundries	2	0	0
„ and Salford	42	18	0
„ National Labour Press	2	0	0
„ Tenants	2	0	0
Market Weighton	2	0	0
Marsden Equitable	4	0	0
Masbro'	25	0	0
Meltham	4	0	0
Middleton and Tonge	8	0	0
Middlestown	2	0	0
Millom	6	0	0
Mirfield Perseverance	2	0	0
Mold	1	0	0
Morley	18	0	0
Moorside (Swinton)	2	0	0
Mossley	6	0	0
Netherthong	0	12	0
New Moston	2	0	0
Oldham Equitable	30	0	0
„ Industrial	46	0	0
Ossett	8	0	0
Oxroft	2	0	0
Park Lane	2	14	8
Pendleton	64	0	0
Pilsley	2	0	0
Poynton and Worth	2	0	0

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Prestwich	12	0	0
Queensbury	6	0	0
Queensferry	6	0	0
Radcliffe and Pilkington	12	0	0
Ramsbottom	6	0	0
Ravensthorpe	2	0	0
Rawdon	4	0	0
Ripponden	2	0	0
Rishton	4	0	0
Rochdale Pioneers	46	0	0
Roe Green	2	0	0
St. Martins	2	0	0
Scarborough	6	6	0
Scunthorpe	10	0	0
Selby	2	0	0
Skipton	5	0	0
Slaithwaite	6	0	0
Southport	4	0	0
Sowerby Bridge	10	0	0
Stainland and Holywell Green	2	0	0
Stockport	26	0	0
Swarthmoor and Ulverston	6	0	0
Tadcaster	2	0	0
Thornton	2	0	0
Tyldesley	4	0	0
Uppermill	2	0	0
Walkden	8	0	0
Walsden	2	0	0
Warrington	34	0	0
Westthoughton Friendly United	2	0	0
Whaley Bridge	6	0	0
Whitworth	2	0	0
Wisden	2	0	0
Winnington and Northwich	10	0	0
Winsford	8	0	0
Workop	10	0	0
Wrexham	6	0	0
York	26	0	0

£2010 8 2

	£	s.	d.
Co-op. Wholesale Society	1000	0	0

SCOTTISH SECTION.

	£	s.	d.
Alloa	11	0	0
Alva Bazaar	2	10	0
Arbroath	4	0	0
Armada	3	0	0
Auchinleck	2	0	0
Avonbank	6	0	0
Bainsford and Grahamston	10	0	0
Bannockburn	4	0	0
Barrhead	8	0	0
Beith	2	0	0
Bellshill and Mossend	6	0	0
Blantyre	6	0	0
Bonnybridge	4	0	0
Brechin United	8	0	0
Bridge of Weir	2	0	0
Broxburn	5	0	0
Busby	2	0	0
Carstairs Junction	2	2	0
Clackmannan	2	0	0
Coalsnaughton	2	0	0
Coatbridge	20	0	0
Cowdenbeath	6	0	0
Cowlairs	22	0	0
Dalry	2	0	0
Dumbarton	10	0	0

SCOTTISH SECTION—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Dumfries and Maxwelltown	5	0	0
Dunblane	2	0	0
Galston	4	0	0
Glasgow, Eastern	27	0	0
" Kinning Park	50	0	0
" London Road	5	0	0
" Progress	12	0	0
" St. Rollox	12	0	0
" U.C.B.S.	100	0	0
Glenbuck	2	0	0
Gorebridge	4	0	0
Grahamston and Bainsford	7	0	0
Greenock Central	18	0	0
Hamilton Baking	5	0	0
Hamilton Central	15	16	8
Palace Colliery	8	0	0
Hawick	9	0	0
Jedburgh	2	2	0
Kilbarchan	2	0	0
Kilmarnock Equitable	25	0	0
Kilsyth	4	0	0
Kilwinning	2	16	0
Markinch	4	0	0
Methill	2	0	0
Muirkirk	2	0	0
Musselburgh and Fisherrow	12	0	0
Newton	2	0	0
Newton Mearns	0	8	0
Newtonshaw	2	0	0
Palsley Equitable	4	0	0
" Provident	20	0	0
Peebles	2	0	0
Perth, City of	15	0	0
Pollokshaws	5	0	0
Renfrew Equitable	6	0	0
St. Cuthberts (Edinburgh)	110	0	0
Shettleston	14	0	0
Stonefield	1	0	0
Tillicoultry	3	0	0
Tranent	8	0	0
Vale of Leven	12	0	0
Wishaw	8	0	0

£705 14 8

	£	s.	d.
Scottish Co-op. Wholesale Society	500	0	0

SOUTHERN SECTION.

	£	s.	d.
Addleston and District	4	0	0
Aldershot	4	0	0
Andover	4	0	0
Ashford	6	0	0
Aylesbury	2	12	0
Banbury	14	0	0
Beeches	4	0	0
Bedford	4	0	0
Berkhamstead	4	0	0
Bishop's Stortford	2	0	0
Bradford-on-Avon	2	0	0
Braintree and West Essex	4	0	0
Brentwood	4	0	0
Bromley and Crays	20	0	0
Chatham	10	0	0
Chatteris	2	0	0
Chesham	4	0	0
Chippenham	4	0	0
Chipping Norton	6	0	0
Clacton-on-Sea	2	0	0
Colechester and East Essex	20	0	0
Cowes	6	0	0

SOUTHERN SECTION—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Crawley and Ifield.....	2	0	0
Croydon	18	0	0
Dartford	6	8	0
Devizes	2	2	0
Diss	1	0	0
Eastleigh	6	0	0
Edmonton	64	0	0
Ely	4	0	0
Enfield Highway	25	0	0
Epping and District	4	0	0
Farnham	4	0	0
Faversham	4	0	0
Folkestone	8	0	0
Garden City Co-operative	2	0	0
Godalming	4	0	0
Gomshall	1	1	0
Great Yarmouth	5	0	0
Guildford	8	0	0
Halstead	4	0	0
Harwich and Dovercourt	4	0	0
Haslemere and District	4	0	0
Haverhill	4	0	0
Hemel Hempstead	2	0	0
Hendon	6	0	0
Hitchin	2	0	0
High Wycombe	4	0	0
Ipswich	28	0	0
King's Lynn	6	0	0
Leighton Buzzard	2	0	0
London, Civil Service Supply	16	0	0
" Perseverance	2	0	0
" West London	28	0	0
Lowestoft	5	0	0
Luton	14	0	0
Maidenhead	2	0	0
Maidstone	2	0	0
Maldon Heybridge	4	0	0
Melton Constable	2	0	0
Newmarket	4	0	0
Newport Pagnell	2	0	0
Oxford	22	0	0
Parkstone and Bournemouth	14	0	0
Penge and Peckham	10	0	0
Portsea Island	34	0	0
Potton	2	0	0
Rainham	2	0	0
Reading	24	0	0
River and District	12	0	0
Rochester	6	0	0
Romsey	1	0	0
St. Albans	2	2	0
Saffron Walden	2	0	0
Sawston	4	0	0
Shanklin Lake	2	0	0
Sheerness	6	0	0
Silsoe	1	0	0
Sittingbourne	20	0	0
Slough	5	0	0
Southampton	16	0	0
Staines and Egham	6	0	0
Stony Stratford	2	0	0
Stowmarket	4	0	0
Swaffham	2	2	0
Tring	2	0	0
Trowbridge	10	0	0
Tunbridge Wells	6	0	0
Walmer and Mongeham	2	0	0
Warminster	2	2	0
Watford	14	0	0
Wilkesden and District	12	0	0
Winchester	4	0	0
Whitham	2	0	0
Woking	6	0	0

SOUTHERN SECTION—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Wolverton	5	0	0
Woolwich Royal Arsenal	120	0	0
	£832	9	0

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	£	s.	d.
Bideford	2	0	0
Bovey Tracey	2	0	0
Bridgwater	6	0	0
Bristol	40	0	0
Brixham	4	0	0
Buckfastleigh	2	0	0
Camborne	4	0	0
Coleford	2	0	0
Delabole	2	0	0
Exeter	12	0	0
Exmouth	2	0	0
Honiton	1	0	0
Minehead	2	2	0
Newton Abbot	6	0	0
Paignton	5	0	0
Penzance	4	0	0
Plympton	2	0	0
Radstock	14	0	0
South Molton	2	0	0
Street	2	0	0
Stroud	8	0	0
Torquay	8	0	0
Twerton (Bath)	10	10	0
Wadebridge	1	0	0
Weston-super-Mare	2	0	0
	£145	12	0

WESTERN SECTION.

	£	s.	d.
Afan Valley	2	0	0
Alltwen and Pontardawe	4	0	0
Ammanford	3	4	0
Barry and District	4	0	0
Burry Port	2	0	0
Cainscross and Ebley	10	0	0
Cardiff	6	0	0
Carmarthen	2	0	0
Dowlais	5	10	0
Ebbw Vale	10	0	0
Gloucester	31	16	0
Hereford	4	0	0
Kemble	2	0	0
Mid-Rhondda	8	0	0
Penarth	2	0	0
Resolven	2	0	0
Senghenydd and Aber Valley	5	0	0
Swansea	8	0	0
Ton	8	0	0
Ynysybwl	8	0	0
	£127	10	0

DONATIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Per Keyworth Society	0	10	0
R. J. Neale (Wood Green)	10	0	0
J. G. Norris (Ramsgate)	2	0	0
	£12	10	0

SUMMARY.

	£	s.	d.
Midland Section	840	2	0
Northern Section	407	6	0
North-Western Section	2010	8	2
Scottish Section	705	14	8
Southern Section	832	9	0
South-Western Section	145	12	0
Western Section	127	10	0
Donations	12	10	0

£5081 11 10

	£	s.	d.
English C.W.S.	1000	0	0
Scottish C.W.S.	500	0	0

£6581 11 10



All Co-operative Societies should join the
CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD.

The Union is an Association of Co-operative Societies for the defence of Co-operative principles, and to give advice to Societies in need of same, either in connection with Legal Business or Educational Work.

**The MISSIONARY, ORGANISER, & ADVISER
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Divided into Eight Sections—Irish, Midland, Northern, North-Western, Scottish, Southern, South-Western, and Western Sections.

Sub-divided into 62 District Associations.

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OR ANY OF ITS BRANCH OFFICES:

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99, LEMAN STREET, LONDON, E.

84, WESTMORLAND ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

67, RAINBOW HILL, WORCESTER.

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Enrolled 11th August 1863;

Business commenced 14th March, 1864.

Registered Office: 1, Balloon Street, Manchester.

BRANCHES AT

West Blandford Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Leman Street, London.

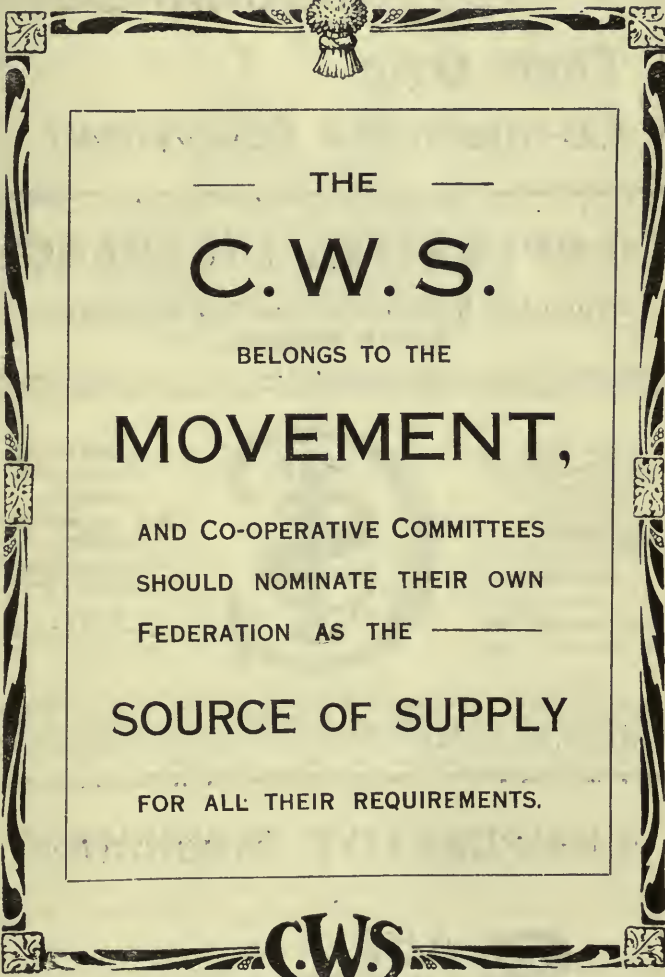

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¶ The C.W.S. also owns a Coal-Mine, Textile Mills, Clothing Factories, Boot and Shoe Works, Paint Works, Drug and Dry-saltery Works, Cycle Depots, Printing Works, and other industrial establishments in the British Isles.

¶ Depots have also been established in many Foreign and Colonial Centres.

The C.W.S. is getting to the Sources of Supply as quickly as the
loyalty of its constituent members allows,



THE
C.W.S.
BELONGS TO THE
MOVEMENT,
AND CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEES
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FEDERATION AS THE
SOURCE OF SUPPLY
FOR ALL THEIR REQUIREMENTS.



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within **INSURANCES**
Their Own
Co-operative Movement.

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CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE

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SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY Ltd.

Established
1868.



Established
1868

Registered Office - 95, MORRISON STREET, GLASGOW.

Reserve and Insurance Funds, £1,118,889.

Capital at 29th June, 1918, £4,501,591.

Annual Sales, £17,767,100.

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Registered Co-operative Societies supplied

The Society manufactures, on an extensive scale, at

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ALSO OWNS

Flour and Meal Mills, Tweed and Blanket Mills, Jute Mills, Fish Curing Station, Creameries, Aerated Water Factories, etc., as well as many Warehouses and Depots in the Principal Towns of Scotland; Bacon Curing, Butter Making and Egg Collecting Centre at Enniskillen, Ireland; and Palm Oil, Tobacco, etc., Estates, in West Africa.

And has joint buying arrangements with the Co operative Wholesale Society Limited, of England, in many important Continental Centres; in the United States and Canada; and is joint owner with the Co-operative Wholesale Society of Tea Estates in Ceylon.

Number of Employees, 10,160.
In Army and Navy .. 1952

Established in

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“IDEAL” CLOTHIERS



LIMITED,

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AND SO ENSURE THAT YOU OBTAIN

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GENTLEMEN'S AND BOYS'
CLOTHING, HATS, AND CAPS

Made under Ideal Co-partnership
Principles.



48 HOURS PER WORKING WEEK.



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Co-operative Boot and Shoe
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ESTABLISHED 1886.



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EQUITY BRAND

OF LADIES' FINE FOOTWEAR.

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Co-operative
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LIMITED.

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SHIRTINGS	SERGES	SHIRTS	TWEEDS
SKIRTINGS	SHAWLS	SKIRTS	QUILTS
BLOUSES	::	::	UNDERCLOTHING, etc.

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SALES.

1875	£31,210
1880	£35,113
1885	£82,915
1890	£165,148
1895	£273,543

SALES.

1900	£373,737
1905	£446,234
1910	£555,043
1915	£796,955
1916 one year	£211,020

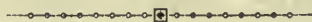
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Co-operative Boot and Shoe Society Ltd.,

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REGENT STREET, KETTERING.



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A reputation TO BE MAINTAINED for Good Value; and
WE MEAN TO DO IT.

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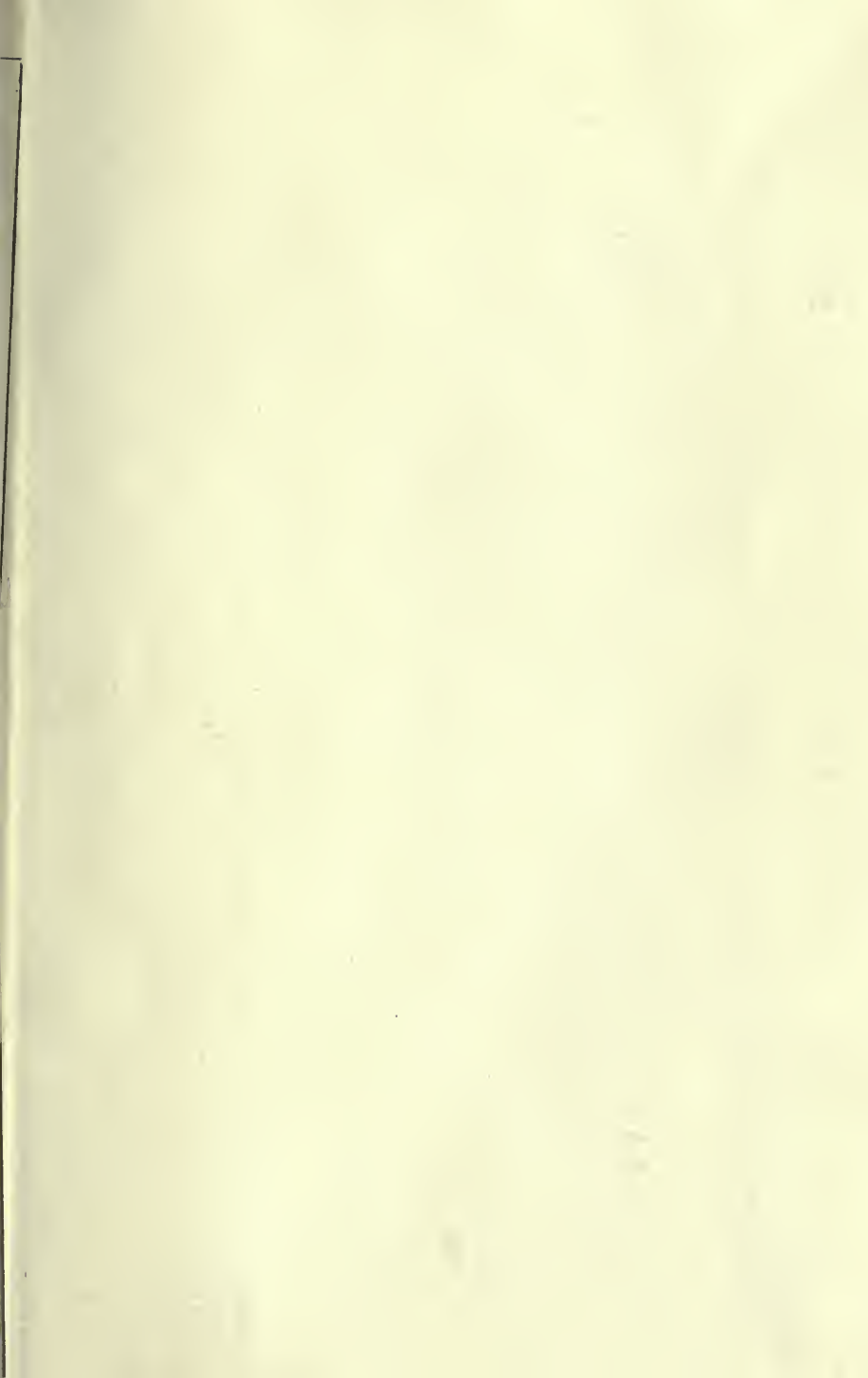
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